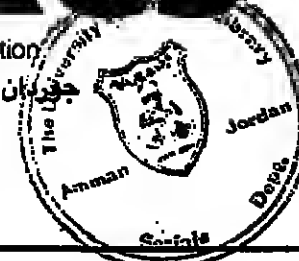


Moroccan envoy arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — An envoy of King Hassan of Morocco arrived here Sunday to seek the support of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for an emergency Arab summit early next month. Abdul Hadi Boutaleb, Islamic Cultural Organisation director-general, told reporters at the airport he carried an invitation for the emir from King Hassan to attend a summit to discuss the Palestinian situation. Officials said Mr. Boutaleb, who arrived from Bahrain where he said the proposal was welcomed by the Bahraini emir, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, will meet Sheikh Jaber on Monday. In Baghdad, Morocco's Parliamentary Speaker Ahmad Osman arrived with a message for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi News Agency quoted President Hussein as stressing "the necessity of Arab meetings at different levels to discuss basic issues of concern to the Arab Nation and the risks challenging it."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جريدة يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»



Haj Hassan reports on ILO talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman Sunday evening after taking part in a meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. In a statement upon return to Amman, the minister said that the conference discussed a report submitted to it by a U.N. mission that visited the occupied Arab territories. The report spoke clearly about "the illegal and arbitrary measures by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian population in flagrant violation of all United Nations principles and international laws," the minister said. He said he addressed the conference on behalf of the Arab group attending the meeting and "made it clear that these Israeli practices can end only with the termination of Israeli occupation of Arab land." The minister said he also presided over a meeting of the Arab group to discuss an annual festival in support of Palestine and the Palestinian cause which is normally held in Geneva during the ILO conference.

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Arab reportedly killed near Hebron

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab citizen of the village of Dora in the neighbourhood of Hebron in the occupied West Bank was killed Sunday morning while trying to dismantle an anti-aircraft rocket, Radio Israel said. The radio did not give further details on the incident other than saying that the rocket was found by chance.

Tutu condemns S.African raid

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu Sunday described the South African raid into neighbouring Botswana nine days ago as "a dastardly act" for which there was no moral justification. He was speaking in this sprawling black township outside Johannesburg at a memorial service for the 12 victims of the attack on what South Africa said were bases of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

Britain departs 8 Shi'ites to Syria

LONDON (AP) — Eight Shi'ite Muslims held since June 12 under the prevention of terrorism act were deported to Syria on Sunday, the Home Office said. The eight men, who were not identified, had been held at Paddington Green police station and questioned "regarding the affairs of Bahrain," a Scotland Yard spokesman said. The men were arrested at various addresses in London.

Bomb scare closes Vienna airport

VIENNA (R) — Vienna's international airport at Schwechat, just outside the Austrian capital, was sealed off for 50 minutes Sunday after a bomb threat, police said. Airport police had received notification of an anonymous telephone call threatening a bomb would explode in the airport at 1330 (1130 GMT).

GCC ministers meet in July

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh early in July. He told reporters they would discuss developments in the Arab World including the Iran-Iraq war, ways to combat terrorism.

Bahrain condemns TWA hijack

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain Sunday issued a statement condemning air piracy, abduction and detention of innocent hostages "irrespective of reasons and justifications." The government called on all governments to "cooperate effectively to reject and combat this dangerous conduct." The statement, by the Foreign Ministry, was reacting to the hijack of the Trans World Airways (TWA) plane to Beirut, the Gulf News Agency reported. S. Arabia condemns hijack, page 2

Partial Israeli move will not affect TWA hostages, Amal says

Rabin: Decision to free 31 Lebanese detainees is not linked to hijack crisis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hijackers holding 40 American hostages have no plans to free any of them in response to Israel's decision to release about 30 Lebanese prisoners, a Shi'ite militia spokesman said Sunday.

He was commenting on a televised statement by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israel on Monday would free a small number of Shi'ites among 766 prisoners it holds. The spokesman, at the home of Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, said: "So far there are no plans to release any of the hostages in return for the 30."

He said the number of prisoners Israel planned to release was not sufficient to satisfy the hijackers' demands. Amal represents the hijackers in efforts to arrange a swap of the 40 hostages for Israel's 766 prisoners.

"We had promised to release all hostages taken on the plane in return for the release of the Adit (jail) detainees," the spokesman said.

to the release by Israel, said the source.

In his interview, Mr. Rabin would not say whether additional prisoners would be released, but said Israel would not undermine the U.S. policy of "standing firm against terrorism."

"If Israel would come out and do it voluntarily we practically undermine the American policy of standing firm," Mr. Rabin said.

"No one would believe that Israel has done it voluntarily without being asked by the U.S. to do it," he said.

Mr. Shultz said he had been told about the Israeli move in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Shimon Peres before dawn Sunday. But Mr. Shultz would give no details of the conversation.

Amal says Israel originally promised to free all the prisoners by the time its army left South

(Continued on page 2)

Marines said to be among hostages; U.S. has no military options in Beirut, page 2

Beirut camp survivors clear up wrecked homes, mourn for dead

BEIRUT (R) — Survivors of a bloody month-long siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut were clearing up their shattered homes Sunday and still mourning the dead.

At least 635 people were killed, some 2,500 were wounded and thousands were left homeless in fighting which erupted in mid-May when Shi'ite Muslim militiamen laid siege to Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps to crush what they described as a revival of Palestinian military power in Beirut.

This weekend, under a Syrian-sponsored ceasefire accord, representatives of an all-party committee went into the camps to oversee the clean-up and moves towards final disengagement.

They encountered scenes of utter destruction. Whole streets in the maze of alleyways and low concrete buildings that make up the camps were wrecked. Spent cartridges, ammunition clips and shrapnel littered the ground.

"We are only beans for one month," said Sahar, a 20-year-old Palestinian woman who said she

stayed in Shatila throughout the fighting. "Now we have no houses, no schools — nothing."

Behind her, a bulldozer as wide as the street heaved tons of rubble into a heap. Nearby, men with walkie-talkies supervised the removal of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) flag from the top of a telephone pole.

The men represented the ceasefire committee, set up under an accord signed last Tuesday in Damascus by the Shi'ite Amal militia, Lebanese leftist parties and a front of Palestinian groups opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

One of them, Palestinian Belal Hassan, said they would stay in the camp 24 hours a day until Lebanese police were deployed to oversee the ceasefire.

"We have to make what we can of the situation. There has been no shooting today," Hassan said.

Over the weekend, United Nations relief workers trucked in tons of food for the beleaguered survivors.

The camps are still ringed by



Television crew stake it out on the balconies of Beirut airport Sunday awaiting developments of the 10-day old hijack of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane.

325 die in Air India crash off Ireland

Sabotage seen as 'distinct possibility'

LONDON (Agencies) — An Air India jumbo jet with 325 people aboard crashed into the Atlantic off Ireland Sunday and India's civil aviation chief said sabotage was "a distinct possibility" as the cause for the world's worst air disaster at sea.

"There do not appear to be any survivors," an Air India spokesman said several hours after the Boeing 747 crashed 150 miles south-west of the Irish town of Cork.

The plane, which had been en route from Montreal to Bombay, suddenly disappeared off radar screens at 9,500 metres, prompting speculation of an explosion.

In London, aviation expert David Learmonth of Flight International Magazine said: "The whole situation screams at you it was a bomb."

India's Minister of State for Civil Aviation Ashok Gehlot, in a statement released at a press conference, said the possibility of any survivors "is considered remote."

"Explosion is considered a possibility in view of the fact that the wreckage is spread over..." the statement said.

Speaking to reporters in London, where the plane had been due to refuel, Air India spokesman Francis da Gama said: "There is no way I can say any-

thing yet about that (sabotage)...

the flight was coming in easily."

Officials at Shannon airport said they lost contact with Air India Flight 182 eight minutes before it went down at 0715 GMT.

Britain and Ireland began a massive search operation and an Irish naval vessel reported seeing up to 20 bodies in the sea.

"We are surrounded by wreckage and bodies," Captain Jim Robinson told Irish Radio.

In New Delhi, Air India said at least 86 children were on the plane, which had been due to land in Bombay and go on to the Indian capital later Sunday.

At the airline's headquarters in Bombay, a spokesman said the plane was commanded by one of the company's most experienced pilots, Captain H.S. Narendra, 56, who had 35 years' flying experience and had logged more than 10,000 hours flying time.

An Aviation expert Learmonth, in a British Broadcasting Corporation interview, cited a series of factors pointing to a bomb as the cause of the crash.

"A Boeing 747 can fly on only one engine and at that altitude could glide for a half-hour without any engine power, which would take it further on its course than where it disappeared."

— Turbulence is often avoidable.

(Continued on page 3)

Canadian plane narrowly escapes baggage blast

TOKYO (R) — A Canadian Jumbo jet with nearly 400 people aboard narrowly escaped being blown up on a flight from Vancouver to Tokyo Sunday, airport officials said.

The Canadian Pacific Air Boeing 747 arrived early and had been on the ground at Narita airport for 40 minutes when a container loaded with suitcases from the hold blew up, killing two Japanese cargo handlers and badly injuring four others.

The blast ripped through a baggage sorting area as passengers queued to collect their suitcases at 0620 GMT — just 55 minutes before an Air India 747 bound from Montreal to London, Bombay and New Delhi crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Ireland, apparently killing all 325 people aboard.

Airport authorities said the CP Air flight 003 arrived 15 minutes early. The intensity of the blast brought down part of the concrete ceiling in the baggage area and it could have caused a major disaster had it occurred before the plane landed.

Police said they were still trying to find out what caused the explosion and who owned the luggage.

Officials at the Narita office of the CP Air were not available for information on whether any prominent figure or figures were among the 374 passengers.

There was no obvious motive for the blast. Narita airport, opened in 1978, has been a frequent target of attacks from local dissidents.

High-level Iranian team arrives in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — A high-level Iranian delegation led by Parliament speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Damascus Sunday, part of Iran's recent diplomatic drive to hack its policy of continuing its 57-month-old war with Iraq.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who is also Iran's war cabinet spokesman, told the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) on arrival from Libya that Iran's relations with Syria, its main Arab ally in the war, were "strong and distinguished."

In Tehran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said an Iranian del-

Ramadan due in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — An 18-man delegation from Baghdad, preparing for a visit this week by Iraq's first deputy prime minister, discussed the current Gulf war situation with Egyptian officials Sunday.

An Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman said they also reviewed, with Assistant Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Badawi, means to step up two-way economic and cultural cooperation.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan is due on Tuesday for a three-day stay during which he is expected to conclude a new cultural and economic accord with Egypt.

Mr. Ramadan will have talks with Prime Minister Kamel Hassan Ali soon after he arrives and will meet President Hosni Mubarak the following day, the spokesman said.

For change in Pakistani Airlines flight schedule See page 6

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Turkish Cypriots vote in elections for parliament

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots voted in parliamentary elections Sunday in a further attempt to consolidate their breakaway northern Cyprus state and make it acceptable to the world community.

This was the third poll in 45 days in the "Turkish republic of north Cyprus," proclaimed in 1983, recognised only by Turkey and condemned by the United Nations.

A moderate early turnout was reported in the poll, in which some 94,000 people were eligible to elect deputies for 50 seats, contested by 350 candidates and seven parties.

Turkish Cypriots voted last month for a new constitution, and the community's leader, Rauf Denkash, won a landslide victory in the state's first presidential elections on June 9.

After casting his vote in north Nicosia Sunday morning, Mr. Denkash declared: "This election completes the final circle in the establishing of this republic."

He told reporters he regarded the elections as "the perfect way of showing that democracy in north Cyprus is working to the full extent."

Asked about the future of divided Cyprus, he said he was ready at any time to have talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has tried without success to forge an agreement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the island's future constitution.

"But now we have to wait for a stable government and house which will give me the mandate to handle the Cyprus question in line with the demands of the people," Mr. Denkash said.

He said two principles were not negotiable — Turkey being a guarantor power to any settlement and equal status for the two communities.

He said outsiders seemed to be in a hurry to see a Cyprus settlement, and "are trying to get us to talk with Greek Cypriot leader (President Spyros) Kyprianou, whose authority and mandate are disputable."

"They are trying to tangle our feet with something in a hurry. This is a highly crucial matter, and nobody can impose on my people any solution which they do not like."

U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at setting up a federation between Greek and Turkish Cypriots collapsed in January.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern 37 per cent of the island after a short-lived coup led by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Political experts said the centre-right National Unity Party (UEP) was likely to win Sunday's election without an absolute majority. A coalition was likely with the centre-right New Dawn Party (YDP), representing mainland Turks settled in north Cyprus, they said.

The main opponents of the UEP are the Republican Turkish Party and the Communist Liberation Party, both left-wing. Parties need to win at least eight per cent of the vote to gain representation in parliament.

Jaffa residents set up league to defend rights

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab residents of Jaffa in occupied Palestine have formed a league charged with defending the rights of the Arab community in the city.

The league was formed in the light of the deteriorating economic and social situation in the city resulting from deliberate Israeli negligence of Arab livelihoods and interests, reports reaching here said Sunday.

Jaffa was annexed by the adjoining city of Tel Aviv following the 1948 war and most of its inhabitants have since been forced to abandon their homes because of economic difficulties.

Nakhleh Shafar, spokesman for the newly established league in Jaffa, said it was formed with the object of safeguarding Arab people's rights. Among issues which the league will handle are that of housing and education, he said.

The Islamic judge of Jaffa, Ahmad Al Natour, meanwhile, protested to the Israeli authorities against the desecration of the local mosque in Qaisariyah town by drunken Israelis.

In a cable he sent to the Israeli Ministry of Religion, Mr. Natour deplored these violations and said that the "Muslim inhabitants will take proper measures to counter the Zionist actions."

Meanwhile in occupied Gaza, the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested a large number of Arab inhabitants at Jabalia and Khan Yunis refugee camps.

Goza residents arrested



S. Arabia condemns TWA hijack

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has condemned the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) Boeing 727 by Shiite Muslim gunmen still holding 40 American hostages in Beirut, saying the seizure was contrary to Islamic and Arab behaviour.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemns any kind of terrorism or piracy which threatens innocent people," the Saudi Press Agency quoted a "responsible source" as saying.

"This kind of work is in contrary to Arab and Islamic behaviour," he added.

OIC urges hostage release

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada meanwhile called on the hijackers to immediately free their hostages.

"Although I don't want to get involved in the reasons for the hijacking of the TWA plane, I call on the hijackers," in the name of the OIC, to immediately free their hostages," he said in a statement carried by the agency.

He also said Israel must free the 700 detainees whose release the hijackers were demanding, saying they had been illegally transferred from South Lebanon to Israel.

Pointing out that the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees were moved from South Lebanon to Israel "in contravention of the Geneva Convention," Mr. Pirzada added: "I say that these detainees should be released immediately."

He also called on the United Nations secretary-general and the International Red Cross organisation to exert themselves for the release of the American hostages in Beirut.

Owners hope for early release of Iran-held ship

KUWAIT (R) — A senior official for the owners of a Kuwaiti ship seized by Iranian gunboats last Thursday said Sunday he was optimistic it would be released soon.

The official of the United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), who asked not to be named, told Reuters the cargo ship Al Muharrar was intercepted 30 miles outside the Strait of Hormuz on its way from Europe to the Gulf.

"We are trying to make contact, using official channels, to get the ship released. I am quietly optimistic," he said.

The Foreign Ministry has called in Iran's charge d'affaires in Kuwait, Mohammed Reza Bagheri, to explain the ship's detention and has requested its release, the Arabic daily Al Qabas reported.

The company officials said the reason for the seizure of the ship, carrying a 23,000-tonne general cargo in international waters, was not known.

Shipping sources, however, say Iran occasionally searches vessels in the Gulf at random to check whether cargoes include arms or military hardware destined for its Gulf war enemy Iraq.

There has been no contact with the crew, of 13 Arab and British officers and 22 Bangladeshis, since the ship was held at 11:50 pm (2050 GMT) on Thursday, the official said.

"We are concerned, but confident of their welfare. This is a government involved, not just some hijackers," he said.

Shipping sources said the Al Muharrar had been due to be discharged at Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, Doha, the Saudi Arabian port of Dammam and Kuwait.

Israeli expert: U.S. has no military option in Beirut

TEL AVIV (R) — A former chief of Israeli army intelligence voices doubts whether the United States could mount a successful military operation to rescue the American hostages in Beirut.

"I doubt if there is a military option in the present situation for the release of the hostages and for getting them out safely," retired General Yehoshua Saguy told Israel Television Saturday.

Shiite Amal leader Nabih Berri said Saturday the United States was preparing military action over the Trans World Airlines (TWA) hostage crisis but Washington denied a report that U.S. warplanes had flown over Beirut.

Fabius' visit to Algeria aims at better relations

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius flies to Algeria Monday for a visit aimed at reducing tension that has built up during a period of uneasy relations.

He will meet President Chadli Benjedid and Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Brahimi during his two-day visit.

Relations between the two countries, which have been periodically warm and cool since the former French colony became independent in 1962, have deteriorated in recent months, judging by acrimonious comments in the official Algerian press, diplomatic sources in Algiers said.

There has been a series of racist attacks on Algerians living in France, and Algeria has misgivings about French policy in North Africa, they say.

Mr. Fabius, who is making his first visit to Algeria as prime minister, visited Morocco last April. Algeria and Morocco are at odds over the Western Sahara conflict, in which Algeria backs Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for the independence of the former Spanish colony.

When French President Francois Mitterrand went to Algiers last October he was trying to restore trust in relations following secret talks with King Hassan after Morocco and Libya signed a treaty of union regarded in Algiers as being basically anti-Algerian, according to the diplomats.

Mr. Benjedid visited Washington in April and the United States offered to sell Algeria a million tonnes of subsidised wheat.

Recent Algerian press sniping at France included a television programme asserting that France used Algerian prisoners as guinea pigs during its first nuclear test at Reggane, in the Sahara, in 1960.

Algerian officials also complain about French energy policy. French imports of Algerian crude oil have fallen to less than six per cent of total oil imports and reports of possible French demands to re-negotiate the price of Algerian gas are irritating Algiers, according to the sources.

Algeria also complains that, in spite of trade worth about \$5 billion last year, French firms are reluctant to invest in Algeria.

Besides bilateral relations, Mr. Fabius is expected to discuss the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, Namibia, Chad, the Western Sahara and the consequences for North Africa of Spain's entry into the European Community.

Numeiri stripped of rank, charged with desertion

CAIRO (R) — Ousted Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has been stripped of his military rank and was now considered a deserter by the country's army leaders, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Saturday.

It quoted a statement by Sudanese state Radio Omdurman as saying that Mr. Numeiri, who held the rank of field-marshal when he was ousted by a military coup last April 6, faced other charges for not returning an army machine-

gun he had in his possession. Mr. Numeiri, who learned of the coup while in Cairo en route home from a visit to Washington, has lived here since.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, once Mr. Numeiri's main Arab ally, paid his first visit to Sudan on Monday when he said he had no plans to extradite Mr. Numeiri to be tried for what Sudan's new rulers maintain are crimes committed against the people.

The source said he did not take part in the hijacking, but was very close to the hijackers and their point of view. He said he had seen the hostages once at a house in Beirut soon after the main group were taken off the plane on Monday.

Marines said to be among TWA hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A Shiite Muslim source claiming close links with the men who hijacked a U.S. airliner to Beirut has said that the 40 American hostages they are holding include several U.S. Marines and navy personnel.

"Not all the (hostage) Americans are innocent. Some are military personnel," the man told Reuters in an interview.

The Falangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio, quoting "a communication from the gunmen aboard the plane," reported that six U.S. Marines were among the hostages from the hijacked Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane.

Amal has no plans to free hostages

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon. It announced completion of the pullout earlier this month, but 766 of 1,200 prisoners earlier deported to Israel were not freed.

Mr. Rahin's announcement came amid signs of movement in the hostage crisis, including a report of a four-point plan for a solution and Swiss contacts with Israel to brief it on talks Swiss officials have had with Mr. Berri.

An Amal official said the militia had accepted a Swiss offer to help end the crisis, which began when the Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight was hijacked on an Athens-Rome flight on June 14.

But he declined to confirm that it was yet ready to move the hostages to Switzerland.

Switzerland said Saturday Amal leader Nabih Berri had told Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert he would be ready to take the hostages to Switzerland.

But the senior Amal official, Dr. Ghassan Siblini, declined to confirm that Amal was ready to move them to Swiss territory.

"All I can say is that we have accepted Switzerland's offer of help to end this affair," he told Reuters.

Israeli officials said Mr. Aubert briefed Israeli's ambassador to Beirut, but did not indicate whether Israel would accept Swiss mediation.

The Lebanese daily An Nahar quoted an unidentified diplomat in Beirut as saying a four-point plan to resolve the crisis had been forwarded to Washington by the U.S. ambassador here.

The plan called for the release of all U.S. hostages, followed by a Washington statement condemning all violations of international law including hijacks and the holding of Lebanese prisoners in Israel," the newspaper said.

The U.S. state department spokeswoman, however, dismissed the report as "purely fictitious."

An Nahar had quoted a diplomatic source as saying the highlights of the plan were: — The prompt release of the hostages.

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Fayez receives ambassadors of Korea, Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.)—Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez Sunday received the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Korea in separate meetings for discussions on relations between Jordan and their countries, means to bolster these relations as well as the latest developments in the Middle East.

Saudi charge d'affaires in Jordan, Abdul Rahman Nasser did not disclose details of the meeting but said that bilateral ties and means to further enhance them were discussed.

South Korean Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Jordan Dong Soon Park told the Jordan Times that he and Mr. Fayez reviewed bilateral cooperation in all fields and that both sides agreed to upgrade existing ties, especially in the economic field.

Mr. Park and Mr. Fayez also reviewed current Jordanian peace efforts in the Middle East. Mr. Park expressed his country's support for the King's initiatives to peacefully solve the Palestine question.

325 die in Air India crash

(Continued from page 1)

metres), the Shannon control spokesman reported.

Shortly after the plane disappeared from radar screens, an automatic electronic distress signal was picked up by other jetliners in the area. Shannon control immediately dispatched search vessels to the scene.

The first wreckage was sighted about two hours after the crash. It was spread in an east-west oval directly below the spot where the plane disappeared from radar, the Shannon control spokesman said.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, quoted an unidentified controller as saying the position indicated the plane "dropped like a stone."

The plane went down in fairly calm seas, but officials said the weather was deteriorating in the search zone.

As more craft reached the area in a joint search operation launched by Britain and Ireland, heavy rain began falling, a mist came down and the sea became rougher.

Rescue officials confirmed the wreckage was centred almost exactly at the spot where the four-engine jet disappeared off the radar screens.

If the plane's engines had failed, they added, the captain would have had time to make a distress call before the plane hit the water.

Search planes spotted life rafts strewn across the sea but reported that none was inflated.

One of the searchers said the crash site was "like a battlefield."

Air India set up an emergency room at London's Heathrow airport to deal with inquiries from relatives of those aboard.

Mr. Da Gama, asked by reporters if Air India had received any threats, said: "Over the past few months there have been threats of hijacks and that sort of thing."

He refused to give any further details.

The Air India Jumbo was carrying 303 passengers and 22 crew when it went down.

In Montreal, an airline spokesman said Flight 182 had originated in Toronto and picked up more passengers during a stop in Montreal before leaving for London and Bombay.

Air India sales manager Derek Menezes said the once-weekly flight had left Toronto at 0015 GMT.

He confirmed that the majority of passengers were of Indian origin and said they were carrying Canadian passports.

Mr. Menezes said the maintenance and safety checks at Montreal were routine and no problems were found.

Mr. Da Gama said the pilot sent out a distress signal before the aircraft went down but one was automatically activated when it hit the sea.

He said 23 passengers, mainly airline staff, were supposed to disembark in London and the plane was going to pick up 60 passengers.

Most of the 60 passengers were put on another Air India flight which later left for Delhi, he said. The ill-fated Boeing was named Kanishka after an old emperor of India.

Asked whether an attempt might have been made to seize or destroy the plane, a spokesman for Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told Reuters:

"I don't want to make any comment on this at this stage. We do not have enough details. The prime minister has been told."

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, quoting officials at Shannon airport, said the possibility of a mid-air explosion on board the Boeing 747 would have to be thoroughly investigated.

Three Indian passenger aircraft have been hijacked in the last four years, the hijackers were all extremists seeking to set up a separate Sikh state in India's northern Punjab state.

All three planes belonged to the domestic service, Indian Airlines. A Boeing 737 was seized last August shortly after it took off from Srinagar and forced to fly to neighbouring Pakistan and then to Dubai where the Sikh hijackers surrendered.

Nine Sikhs hijacked an Indian Airlines Airbus in July last year and forced to fly to Lahore in Pakistan. In September 1981, five Sikhs hijacked a Boeing 737, also to Lahore.

Sunday's crash was the third worst disaster in aviation history and the worst at sea.



Haj Hassan returns: Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan (third from left), who returned Sunday after attending a conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, is received upon arrival by senior officials (Petra photo)

WHO regional centre to study effects of pollution, environmental factors on public health

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) of the East Mediterranean Region, an Office (EMRO) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) was established last January in the current temporary premises granted by the Ministry of Health.

The centre is intended to serve as a technical and scientific arm of the WHO regional office in its collaborative efforts with member countries to expedite the planning and implementation of their environmental health programmes.

Mr. Mahmood Suleiman, interim coordinator of the centre, said that the decision of the WHO regional director to establish the CEHA was based on a feasibility study conducted in 1979 by three WHO study teams who visited several countries in this region.

The recommendations of these teams were endorsed by an EMRO inter-country consultative meeting on environmental health research held in Amman in December 1983.

Mr. Suleiman added that Amman was selected as host city due to its geographic location, climate and travel facilities, ease of access and telecommunications and availability of technical and scientific institutions and laboratories, as well as amenities relevant to the recruitment of international staff (including schooling and housing).

He also said that the rapid urbanisation and industrialisation which has been taking place in the 22 WHO member countries of the

East Mediterranean region has contributed seriously, and often critically, to the problems of water and air pollution. "New food and agricultural technologies and the use of chemical fertilizers have aggravated these environmental problems and increased the burden of the national health and environmental institutions which", he said, "usually suffer from the lack of appropriate manpower".

Beside enhancing new activities, CEHA intends to facilitate ongoing activities in the above mentioned countries, such as activities for the international drinking water supply and sanitation decade, the Mediterranean action plan for the control of marine pollution, the Gulf action plan for the protection of the marine environment, the establishment of water and air quality monitoring, the food safety programme, an environmental planning for rural and urban development and housing, and increased activities in basic water supply and sanitation as elements of primary health care.

CEHA also hopes to enhance and facilitate the participation by member states in the sharing of experience and institutional capacity.

Mr. Suleiman also acts as chief technical and administrative officer of CEHA. Other personnel, for the first phase of CEHA's development (1985-87), will be limited to a staff of at least two professionals. They will be dealing primarily with human resources development, including all environmental health issues, and the information system development which has the function to exchange and disseminate appropriate technology to member countries and to help them to better plan and evaluate their own programme

activities.

Staff selection

These two areas, Mr. Suleiman told the Jordan Times, are the present priorities of the centre for all EMRO countries. The needed personnel are now being chosen and screened. "It will take some time", he said. For all other CEHA's activities, including applied research to lead to the development of appropriate technology, development of national environmental policies and planning and direct cooperation with member countries in project development, will be implemented through short-term consultants, and contractual service agreements with national institutions.

CEHA will also consult closely with a technical advisory board to be composed of at least four members from the region including one from the host country, as well as with the environmental health unit in the regional office of WHO.

The second phase staffing will be dependent on future programme developments and on the first phase's experience, as well as the experience of the other two WHO regional environmental centres in Lima, Peru and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mr. Suleiman said that a large part of the environmental problems identified in this region are related to water supply and sanitation. They include its proper maintenance and minimum evaluation, surveillance of its systems, leakage detection in water distribution. Special attention is also given to operations of wastewater treatment and reuse. Mr. Suleiman said an applied research is being conducted presently on this last issue which, he believes, "will

Khatib, Kuwaiti official discuss cooperation in conservation of energy, building technology

AMMAN (J.T.)—Means of conserving energy in industry and in domestic use was one of several topics discussed by Jordanian and Kuwaiti officials in Amman Sunday.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib discussed the subject with Dr. Adnan Shihabuddin, the director general of the Kuwait Scientific Research Institute who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

Also discussed were issues pertaining to building materials, the exchange of expertise and other related topics, to ways of overcoming obstacles in laying power networks and establishing a central bureau of information on energy to serve both Jordan and Kuwait.

Both sides agreed to follow up talks on these subjects and to define scopes for future cooperation. Aides from both sides attended the meeting.

Dr. Shihabuddin also watched a documentary on the development and the achievements of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Earlier Dr. Shihabuddin called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and held discussions with RSS President Fakhraddin Al Daghestani on cooperation between the Kuwaiti institute and the RSS in energy conservation affairs. Agreement was reached on the joint implementation of two projects.

Dr. Daoud Jabaji, head of the RSS Building Research Centre, told the Jordan Times that the two sides will first prepare a handbook on thermal insulation in buildings in the course of developing the Kuwaiti and Jordanian building codes with special focus on ways to conserve energy.

He said the two sides will also carry out a techno-economic assessment of the present technology currently employed in the manufacture of insulating materials, in addition to a pre-feasibility study on the employment of local raw materials in the manufacture of insulating materials.

Cabinet forms delegations for Arab information meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday formed Jordan's delegation which will attend the meetings of Arab Ministers of Information Council due to open in Tunis on July 2nd.

The delegation, to be led by Minister of Information, Mohammad Al Khatib, will include Information Ministry Under Secretary Michael Hamarnah and Mr.

Atallah Rubuj, the director of the ministry's Arab and International Organisations Department.

Also Sunday the cabinet formed Jordan's delegation to the standing Arab information committee meetings to be held in Tunis between June 29 and July 1. The delegation will be headed by Mr. Hamarnah.

Road race set for Friday

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 300 people, young and old, male and female are expected to participate in the 10,000-metre classic road race, an annual event sponsored by the Amman Marriott Hotel, and scheduled to be held in Amman Friday.

Proceeds of the race, jointly organised by the hotel, the Jordan Military Sports Council (JMCS) and the Tourism Authority will go to the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

The hotel will contribute JD 1 per participant in the race," the hotel's general manager, Mr. Hafez Aguiar said.

The race will start at 4:00 p.m. at the hotel, and the route passes through Jabel Al Hussein to downtown Amman, through Shmeisani via the First, Second and Third Circles, the Holiday Inn Hotel road, proceeding to through King Hussein street in Shmeisani and back to the hotel through Arab Bank street.

During a press conference held at the hotel Sunday, Mr. Aguiar told reporters that the event will serve "humanitarian causes and will offer a fun-packed occasion for Amman's community."

Another speaker at the press conference, Brigadier Hirsch Eytmezzian, said that the JMCS will offer all technical and administrative assistance needed for the success of the road-race, providing transportation facilities, ambulances and referees.

The racers will all be running together "making an interesting combination of young and old", but will be divided into four age groups according to Mr. Aguiar.

Age classes for the race are under 15 years of age, between 16 and 30, from 31 to 45 and above 46. Each group will have two sub-groups of males and females.

The first female and male winners of each group will be awarded a cup. The second and third female and male winners in each group will be awarded silver and bronze medals respectively, whereas, the overall winner of all groups, the first to arrive, will be awarded the race cup.

Racers willing to participate should contact the hotel's business office, where they should present their identity card. The registration fee for the 10,000-metre classic road race is JD 3 and the hotel will provide each participant with a Marriott T-shirt along with a number.

Participants who belong to any local sports, are exempt from paying the registration fee, Brig. Eytmezzian said.

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Sight & Sound Education Centre in Amman is holding 4 Computer camps on its premises.

Each camp will run for two weeks, 5 days a week, from 9 am. to 12 noon for ages 9 - 12 and from 3 pm. - 6pm. for age group 13 - 17. One computer will be fully dedicated for two students.

An advanced course for last year's students.

Camp 1 - June 29th, 1985 to July 10th, 1985

Camp 2 - July 13th, 1985 to July 24th, 1985

Camp 3 - July 27th, 1985 to August 7th, 1985 - Advanced

Camp 4 - August 10th, 1985 to August 21st, 1985

For further information and/or registration call:



Sight & Sound
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Ambassador Hotel
P.O. Box 739 Tel: 661136
Telex: 21989 Motel Jo.

WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION TO BID GREATER AMMAN WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT 116/85

1- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and the contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified in the Ministry of Public Works as general and first water and sewerage, general and first roads and building, to submit bids for the supply and construction of Swelleh, Tla'ali, Umessumak, Khilida and Wadi Seer water supply and distribution systems according to the specifications and conditions of contract which are obtainable from the Water Authority head office in Amman.

2- Bids are due no later than Saturday August 10, 1985 at 12:00 noon Jordan local time.

3- Foreign contractors shall submit in a sealed envelope containing all information about the company for the purpose of prequalification and they are due no later than July 14th 1985, foreign contractors are strongly encouraged to joint venture with prequalified local contractors.

4- A prebid conference will be held on July 14, 1985 at 9:00 a.m. Jordan local time at the Water Authority head office in Amman and the site visit shall be timed during the conference.

5- Tender documents are available at the Water Authority's tender department in Amman, Jabel Al Hussein, P.O. Box 2412 at the rate of JD 150 per set non-refundable.

Eng. M.S. Kellani
President
Water Authority

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Time for progress

A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN delegation this week embarks on a tour of European capitals to explain the Jordan-PLO accord of Feb. 11 and its aim of solving the Palestine problem.

At the same time, Arab governments work on preparations for the projected Arab summit conference, called by Morocco and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to look into ways of ending the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and to study means of resolving the Palestine question.

Both endeavours face the prospects of success or failure, depending on the efforts being exerted and the sincerity of those involved in making them. The Jordanian and Palestinian leaders who charted the Amman accord are certain of the soundness of their purpose and hopeful that their efforts will win support from major world nations which is an important prerequisite to pave the way for an international conference designed to find a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the other hand, the planned summit continues to face obstacles despite reports that a quorum has been found for holding it in the first half of the coming month. Jordan and the PLO are of course among those supporting the conference whose main purpose is to find common Arab ground on which efforts can continue to solve the Palestine problem.

The minority of Arab countries opposing the summit are bound to boycott it, probably because at such a grouping they will feel isolated, since their views conflict with those of the majority over issues like the Gulf war, the proposed international Middle East conference, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the situation in Lebanon. But this should not create the impression that the planned summit will be a failure. The majority of Arab states which are willing to attend the summit have on different occasions voiced backing for the Jordanians' and Palestinians' efforts, and they no doubt see eye to eye with us on the remainder of problems facing the Arab nation at large.

But the most important success of the forthcoming summit could be a clear and unequivocal support and backing for the Amman accord of Feb. 11 and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian initiative which appears to be the only promising and viable one on the scene and which is in perfect harmony with resolutions adopted by Arab leaders at the Fes summit in 1982.

This is a time when real progress can be made to restore Arab solidarity and further our just cause in the international arena. Let us hope the time is also right to hear of positive developments after this long period of stagnation and disputes that we have been passing through.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit to rescue Palestinians

KING HUSSEIN Saturday emphasised Jordan's keenness on attending an Arab summit meeting called by Morocco in order to discuss ways to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people in their camps in Lebanon. King Hussein set an example for other Arab leaders with whom he wishes to meet and make them fully realise the real proportion of the tragedy in Lebanon.

Unless the Arab countries move now to save the Palestinians from disaster, they should not await other countries to do so. The massing of the Palestinian in Lebanon brought much happiness to Israel, which has been exploiting the situation and presenting the Arabs abroad as not serious in reaching for peace with others as long as they fail to find peace among themselves.

The Arab masses attach great hopes on the coming Arab summit meeting not only to end the tragedy of the Palestinian people in Lebanon but also to chart joint action for Arab countries in the face of continuous dangers and threats by the enemies of the Arab nation.

Al Dustour: TWA hijack irresponsible

THE HIJACKERS who seized the American TWA plane have given the United States a chance to make a show of force in Arab waters. They offered the Americans an opportunity to carry out military intervention in the Arab region and take vengeance on the hijackers and their supporters. The hijackers' action has therefore brought fresh dangers to Lebanon and the Arab region, drew world-wide condemnation and indignation, and weakened Arab credibility.

The hijackers belong to a group who carry out attacks on the refugee camps in Beirut and therefore they have no sympathy for their cause from the Arab people. Of course we do not want to see the Americans carrying out military action in the Arab region, and we do not want to see further tragedies befalling the Lebanese and the Palestinians, but we also do not want to see such terrorist actions spreading in our region either.

The hijackers have caused damage to their cause and their call for the release of 700 Shi'ites from Israeli jails because world-public opinion has now been turned against them. We would like to see the hijackers releasing the innocent hostages in order to bring about an easing of tensions that would benefit the Arab cause in general and the stand of the Arab detainees in Israeli prisons in particular.

Sawt Al Shaab: Summit means hope

POLITICAL CIRCLES in most Arab states have welcomed the convening of an Arab summit conference in the coming month. They see in this summit consensus among Arab leaders to forego the present state of differences and disputes between their countries in a bid to focus attention on the future and study means of confronting the common challenges.

Many of the problems now present in the Arab countries were brought about because of lack of Arab consensus and lack of joint action. Observers of Middle East developments have noted that some Arab countries have been opposing such a summit, which is designed to help the Arab countries to solve their chronic problems. This minority does not want to be committed to joint national action that can preserve Arab rights and interests.

The Arab states, in the absence of joint action, have been facing a disastrous situation in Lebanon and the Gulf War, both conflicts that have been sapping Arab resources and weakening the Arab nation. Arab masses have reason to look hopefully to the coming summit because it represents a light of hope in a dark alley.

Guest Column

Enquiry committee to investigate Lebanon invasion?

By Mufid Awwad

THE INVASION of Lebanon and the negative effects it left on the psychological, social and economic life inside the Israeli society prompted a large sector of the Israeli public to demand the formation of an enquiry committee to look into the implications of this invasion, described by many as the worst disaster ever encountered by the Zionist state since 1948.

Those calling for the formation of the committee are basing their demand on a precedent, an enquiry committee set up in 1973 following the October War to look into the causes of defeat and heavy losses of life among the Israelis. The "Agranat" committee, as it was called at the time was set up also to explore the rea-

sons behind the shortcomings of senior government officials and high-ranking army officers that led to the "disaster". As long as a committee had been formed for investigating the outcome of the 1973 war, there is no reason, according to some Israelis, for a similar committee not to be formed to investigate the invasion and its consequences.

The October War was said to have brought about the first military defeat to the Israelis due, mainly, to the element of surprise and to the loss of thousands of Israeli troops in the battles. This Israeli army was supposed to have been trained to face surprise attacks by the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance forces in South Leb-

anon, which actually inflicted another defeat on the Israeli government and armed forces.

The Israeli leaders have not in fact expected the Lebanese to quickly mobilise their forces and fill the vacuum made by the withdrawal of Palestinian forces. They never expected the Lebanese to carry out daring attacks on the invasion forces throughout occupied South Lebanon.

The Israelis made another blunder by miscalculating the real power of their allies in Lebanon and failing to take into account the possibility that these allies might forsake them at one stage or another. They also committed a fatal mistake when they believed

that they would be able to impose their terms and conditions on the Lebanese government for a settlement.

Those demanding the formation of an enquiry committee say that since Israel had planned this war it should have been in a position to determine and control its course of events and, its results. They maintain that the Israeli army was not prepared and consequently was taken by surprise in 1973. This time too, they say the Israeli army was caught unprepared to withstand a prolonged war or a war of attrition that was imposed on it. Why then, they ask, should the army be able to launch lightning attacks on the

enemy, but cannot face long fighting?

Those demanding an enquiry committee realise that the Israeli army had known all along that the resistance in South Lebanon is used to guerrilla warfare, like the Israeli forces, who are used to conventional regular army combat. Why conduct an invasion then? They also say that the October War ended with an agreement on the disengagement of forces with Syria and a peace treaty with Egypt. But the invasion of Lebanon ended with nothing. Even the May 17 agreement, which Ariel Sharon is said to have imposed on the Israeli government, was not allowed

to see the light and the invasion was transformed into a nightmare for the Israeli combat soldier. In fact, the war in Lebanon made of that country another Arab confrontation state.

The Israelis had described the October War as an earthquake due to the heavy losses and the severe blow it dealt to the Zionist state's economy. The consequences of the invasion was more devastating at the social and economic levels for Israel. This invasion has forced the Israelis to reexamine their strategies and their policies not for the sake of cutting off the heads of their leaders who risked the adventure but rather for averting similar catastrophes in the future.

Setting the record straight on Israel and U.S.

By Philip Geyelin

ISRAEL'S EXIT from Lebanon on the third anniversary of its entry by armed force invites a look at the costs: the military and civilian casualties; the physical devastation; the failure of American as well as Israeli missions; the buildup of the Syrian/Soviet power position; a Lebanon left up for grabs by Islamic extremists.

Somewhere in these ruins there has to be a lesson. But in order to find it, you must begin by addressing a fashionable fantasy. The Reagan administration lost the war, Israeli and American revisionists would now have us believe, by insisting on cease-fires and otherwise intervening to stop the carnage just when Israel was on the brink of victory.

If you believe that, the lesson of Lebanon is that a meddling, overbearing United States should have given Israel its head to tend to its security interests as it saw them. The plain implication is that Israel's security interests are inevitably the same as U.S. security interests.

The true lesson is just the opposite. The record of Lebanon is a record of the U.S.-Israeli relationship at its worst: of mutual interests lost sight of; of a United States protesting ineffectually to an unresponsive Israel. It is a record of U.S. perceptions of its own interests — and Israel's — weakly subordinated to the will of the Israeli government.

In the crucial months leading up to the invasion, the only thing the Reagan administration didn't know about Israeli intentions was that pretext the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin would seize upon to justify bre-

aking and entering Lebanon.

Well-placed U.S. officials — from former Secretary of State Al Haig, in his memoirs, to the departing U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Sam Lewis, in recent interviews — have simply confirmed the administration's prior knowledge. The previews came from none other than the invasion's mastermind, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli minister of defence at the time.

The record is equally clear that administration officials remonstrated repeatedly from the moment Sharon first laid out his designs at a meeting with Ronald Reagan's special Mideast envoy, Philip Habib. A full six months before the invasion. According to Lewis (on Israeli television last month), Sharon presented in detail a plan that closely approximated the actual invasion. "Habib was dumfounded," Mr.

Lewis recalled, as were he and other Americans present. "by the audacity and the political concept that this seemed to involve."

Mr. Habib "made it extraordinarily clear to Sharon that this was an unthinkable proposition as far as the U.S. government was concerned," Mr. Lewis recalled. Sharon called Mr. Lewis's account of the meeting a "gross lie." In reply, the State Department said Mr. Lewis "described the U.S. position in this matter with complete accuracy. We strongly object to any suggestions to the contrary."

Is this talk among allies "irrevocably bound to each other and entangled in a whole variety of ways... in the nature of a family relationship," as Mr. Lewis recently put it in an interview with the Washington Post?

Hardly. To suggest, as the re-

visionists do, that the Israelis knuckled under to American pressure at any significant point along the way is to deny the record.

Specifically, the notion that the United States "discouraged" the Israelis from running the Syrians out of the Bekaa (Valley) and the Palestinians out of Beirut, as former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick argued recently, flies in the face of known facts. Sharon took more than a year to think up this explanation for the failure of his mission.

And Sharon is his own worst witness. Having persistently refused to pay attention to ceasefires he didn't like, he is in a poor position to blame one that he did observe for snatching defeat from the jaws of an Israeli

Cold equations of cocaine make strange arithmetic

The traffic in cocaine is an emotional subject, but in cold economic terms it is vital to half a dozen Latin American countries. Sarita Kendall looks at the arithmetic.

QUITO — It is one of the few products grown, processed, exported and distributed by "Third World" countries. The cocaine export business is worth about half the world coffee trade if estimates of deliveries to consumer countries are compared; but in the final phase, when bulk shipments are broken down for the individual customer, prices rocket by more than 300 per cent.

Colombia, Peru and Bolivia remain the most important producing countries, but the cocaine business has now spread to most of South America. Central American and Caribbean nations are involved too, primarily as transshipment and financial centres. From the thousands of peasant families growing coca leaves to the few billionaires who direct the biggest clans, cocaine has enormous economic, social and political influence in Latin America. Coca leaves have been used for

at least 5,000 years in rituals in the Andes mountains and the Amazon lowlands, and are also chewed as an antidote to cold and hunger. Millions of South Americans still use leaves in these ways, so cultivation of coca is licensed in many areas. A very small part of the crop is also exported legally for medical and other purposes.

Yields vary considerably according to the plant variety grown, soil, climate and the level of investment in the plantation. The Tingo Maria area in the eastern foothills of the Peruvian Andes can give up to six harvests a year, while the average is three or four. Even with minimal inputs and attention, one mature hectare (2.47 acres) produces a ton of coca leaves over 12 months.

The arithmetic of the cocaine trade consists largely of guess-timates. Apart from the more obvious problems in arriving at reliable figures, the speed with which producers respond to anti-drug campaigns makes it difficult to keep up with changing production levels, locations, prices and transport routes. Huge mark-ups occur at each stage in the process, and the value of a kilo of cocaine in, say, Letica on the river Amazon can be multiplied by 40 when it is cut and packaged for the Chicago streets.

However, some idea of the scale of South American production can be formed by matching information from sources such as dealers, foreign agencies and bankers. Peru is considered the biggest coca leaf producer, with about 60,000 hectares (148,200 acres) followed by Bolivia with 50,000 hectares. The areas planted with coca in Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador have expanded very rapidly in the past three years. Small plantations in Venezuela and Argentina raise the total number to at least 145,000 with a conservative yield of a ton per hectare.

As the raw material is bulky, the first stage of processing takes

place close to the growing area. The leaves, sometimes dried, are usually softened in petrol or kerosene to produce a sloppy mixture that is treated with sulphuric acid, lime, potassium permanganate or other substances. This, when dried, leaves a paste that is normally moved elsewhere for more sophisticated refining into cocaine hydrochloride, the white powder.

The small grower can hardly expect to make enormous profits; these come further up the ladder. The economics of a very small production unit in the Cauca region of highland Colombia are roughly as follows: for one batch \$27 is spent on coca leaves (25 lb) and \$19 on chemicals, to produce about 40 grams of cocaine paste. This is sold locally at around \$1.50 per gram, giving a profit of \$14 on each batch. The family usually makes about three batches a week, and labour is not, of course, accounted for in this case.

At the other end of the scale, integrated operations capable of producing more than 10 tons of cocaine a month have been found in the eastern plains and jungles of Colombia. These involve large labour forces, constant supplies of chemicals, clandestine airstrips and falsified arsenals.

If generous allowances are made for the local consumption of coca leaves and losses along the way, about 500 tons of paste is refined into cocaine hydrochloride in South America. At a ratio of 2.5 kilos of paste to one of cocaine powder, South America's production is in the region of 200 tons, of which between 10 and 20 per cent is either abandoned en route or seized by the authorities.

A kilo of cocaine in Bogota costs an average \$8,000 when bought in bulk. Experts believe about 60 per cent of South America's exports go through Colombia. On delivery to the U.S., the price jumps to about \$30,000 a kilo, and it is higher in other countries. So the minimum value of South America's cocaine exports can be put at about \$5 billion, before distribution begins to push up the price. The full commercial

Randa Habib's Corner

How beautiful, are they artificial?

THE OTHER day I told myself that the artificial has won over the natural everywhere in the world. The plastic has replaced the glass; nylon instead of wool, paper instead of straw. In our food, ingredients with bizarre names appeared: saccharose, fructose, glucose, sodium caseinate, G2, B01. Even the chicken is fed with hormones and the eggs are produced mechanically. Fruits have no taste any more as one can find them in all seasons. One does not wait with excitement anymore for the strawberry season because strawberries are available all the time. Butterflies do not fly anymore. They are framed in sheets of glass. One is contented with looking at them static and colourful decorating walls of living rooms.

Green plants at houses and offices are replaced with cloth plants which do not breathe, grow or die either; and artificial flowers are everywhere: on the dining table, near the picture of a dear person, in vases. Plastic flowers or fancy ones are artistically made and arranged but with no smell or life. Also in our daily lives, the artificial replaces the natural. Even babies are nowadays produced in tubes. The climax of my apprehensions came when I heard the other day a lady telling her friend while admiring roses in the garden: "Oh look how pretty they are ... what a beautiful colour they have, and their petals ... God, how beautiful! One might even think they are artificial ..."

Opium or apricots in Thailand hills

Thailand's hill tribes are being taught to substitute other cash crops for opium poppies — but progress is slow and difficult.

By Gilbert Khoo

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — Heroin is a product of the opium poppy and of the poverty of the Southeast Asian peasants who grow it. Thai peasants are struggling to find cash crop substitutes for the opium they are now forbidden to grow.

As little as a generation ago, when the opium trade was still legal, the Thai government itself was buying opium from the hill tribes. In 1959, due to international pressure for narcotics control, Thai authorities banned the sale of opium. It was a premature move. Opium was virtually the country's only cash crop, and aside from rice the only one the hill farmers knew how to cultivate.

The peasants' lot was one of constant harassment by drug traffickers. These armed bandits supplied the hill tribes with poppy seeds and a few necessities in return for free labour. At harvest time they would return to buy the crop at low prices, cutting the peasants out of the huge profits they realised in the drug trade.

Ten years after the ban on opium, Thailand launched a scheme for converting the hill people to other cash crops. Under the patronage of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the "Rural Project" aimed to educate hill people in a variety of agricultural skills and to bring development to the hills.

"At that time, the northern hills were very isolated and unknown



Near Chiang Mai, Thailand: Karen women in the hilltribe villages of northern Thailand now cultivate ginger instead of the opium poppy (Earthscan photo)

— unlike now when mountain roads snake into every settlement no matter how remote or how rough the terrain," remembers the King's son, Prince Bhisaj Rajani. Access into the mountain areas was possible only by helicopter on loan from the Air Force every Sunday. Today 25 hill stations covering 106 villages have been established.

Two additional crop replacement projects are financed largely by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United Nations through its Highland Agricultural Marketing and Production Project (HAMP).

To date, USDA has contributed \$3.1 million. Since 1979, seven extension projects, covering 50 villages and 10,000 hilllanders, have been in operation. HAMP works in five hill regions in 30 tribal villages. Its annual budget is \$700,000.

Success has been mixed. Paradoxically, a vegetable specialist with the Royal Project, claims, "If you come in late January you see beautiful (opium) poppy blossoms all over these hills."

Yet Richard Mann, senior advisor to the HAMP project, feels that the U.N. can do little beyond demonstrate how peasants can grow other crops. This has done little to change the hill people's attitude. Change is now up to the peasants and the Thai government.

Climatic conditions in the hills vary widely. Daylight hours, sunshine, humidity and duration of

cool spells differ from place to place. A wide variety of substitute crops have been grown experimentally: rice, coffee, kidney beans, potatoes, fruits and garden vegetables. Years of research are required to match crop to location, followed by further years of testing sample plantings.

At the Ang Khang station in the district of Fang, apples, apricots, grapes, peaches, pears, plums, and persimmons thrive with broccoli, cabbages, carrots, potatoes and a number of other crops. The tribal group known as the Chinese Haws took readily to these new crops

IBM president defends company against 'monster' image

By Catherine Arnst

ARMONK, New York — The new president of International Business Machines (IBM) is going on the attack to counter what he sees as the company's unfair image as an electronic monster out to dominate the world's computer markets.

A recent cover of the British magazine The Economist showed an IBM computer with opened faces dripping blood.

It is against such negative portrayals that John Akers, chief executive officer of the world's largest computer company since February, plans to spend more time than his predecessors waging a diplomatic offensive.

"No one can tell the IBM story like the chief executive and so I intend to tell the IBM story all over the world," he told Reuters in an interview at IBM headquarters here.

Mr. Akers vehemently dis-

misses charges by many competitors and some government officials that IBM is trying to monopolise information processing markets around the world.

"We are not out to aggressively raise our market share in any kind of material way. We would be happy if over the next five to 10 years we maintained our market share."

IBM's market share is already enormous. Its 1984 earnings of \$6.6 billion accounted for 70 per cent of the total profits earned by all U.S.-based computer companies.

Mr. Akers said IBM constantly tries to communicate its belief that its presence is to the advantage of a local economy, even though most governments prefer to have a home-grown industry.

"You have to conduct your business in a way societies around the world think you are a benefit," Mr. Akers said.

"That requires a lot of communications on the part of ind-

ustry and certainly a lot of communications on the part of IBM, and so we are trying to tell the IBM France story and the IBM Japan story and the IBM Mexico story in those countries."

He compared his role to that of President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, whose government is fighting a civil war against leftist guerrillas.

"I talked with Duarte this week. He is a very warm and charming fellow. I said to him, 'Mr. president, many people can tell your country's story but no one can tell it like you.'"

He decided the notion that a business can succeed "by trying to be only French with French employees marketing to the French marketplace. You have to be in most markets around the world and that is true of IBM. It is true of most of our competitors in Europe."

IBM has surpassed competitors around the world with virtually every size of computer.

Its P.C.-Junior home computer was discontinued earlier this month primarily because the product did not live up to the company's own profitability standards. But it still sold better than similarly priced computers on the American market.

IBM's overall success breeds charges of monopoly power, particularly in Europe, where trade barriers and economic nationalism are its biggest stumbling blocks.

The company has been fighting anti-monopoly charges for years. It won every private U.S. lawsuit brought against it and the federal government dropped its massive legal effort in 1982.

Last year IBM settled an anti-monopoly action brought by the European Community, on terms that industry analysts said did little damage to the company.

Mr. Akers admits to being "a little aggravated" by monopoly charges. "I do not think any company in the history of industry has

U.N. projects a world of three billion women

By Michael Littlejohns

UNITED NATIONS — There will be more than three billion women by the year 2000, outnumbering men by 175 million, but they are unlikely to experience any increase in political power, according to the United Nations.

That is because women constitute the majority of the poor and 60 per cent of illiterates, Rafael Salas, executive director of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, said in his annual report on world population issued recently.

While the number of illiterate women in developed countries is expected to decline by five million, it is likely to increase worldwide from 491 million to 552 million, mainly in Asia and Africa, Mr. Salas said.

He blamed the demands of childbirth and child-rearing for the denial of education and training to hundreds of millions of women and their subsequent exclusion from political and economic decision-making.

"The guarantee of reproductive freedom is basic to women's participation in productive activities and to their economic freedom," Mr. Salas said.

"In general, higher education leads to higher use of contraception, even in those countries where the percentage of married women currently practising contraception is lowest."

Women in developed lands, having knowledge of and access to contraception were able to control their own fertility and work for more participation in politics and the economy. But an improvement in the status of most "Third World" women was held back by "denial of reproductive freedom," Mr. Salas said.

"In addition," he said, "women's health is damaged and their lives are shortened by years spent in pregnancy and child-rearing."

High birth rates will continue to restrict the productive roles of women in the non-traditional sectors in many developing countries, according to the U.N. report.

It projected that at the close of this century, women in Africa will have an average of 5.81 children — only a little lower than the 6.75 average for the period 1970-1975.

Stressing that the use of contraception is closely linked to female educational and socioeconomic status, Mr. Salas said that current practice varies widely — from almost none or very little use in much of Africa and some parts of Asia to, for example, 71 per cent use of contraception in Singapore.

One-third or more of Latin American wives and 60 per cent of Chinese women practise birth control, with high levels of use also in eastern and Southeast Asia, he said. However, there was low use in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

"There is a long way to go in making available contraceptive facilities and in raising the prevalence rates (of contraceptive use) among married women," he observed.

His U.N. agency is threatened by sharp reductions in or the possible elimination of all U.S. aid for its programmes because of the Reagan administration's objections to abortion as a means of birth control.

Mr. Salas has insisted that the agency does not promote abortion but cannot interfere in the policies of governments that receive its funds and then permit the procedure.

Cheating Uncle Sam is now a popular gambit for U.S. taxpayer

By Kenneth Barry

WASHINGTON — U.S. tax collectors, now grappling with millions of income tax statements filed this month, are expressing concern over a growing public attitude that it's okay to cheat Uncle Sam.

Officials at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the world's largest tax administration, say the "tax gap" — the difference between what the government is owed and what it gets — has risen dramatically in recent years.

Estimates are that tax cheating cost the U.S. government \$81.3 billion in 1981, the latest figures available, compared to \$28 billion in 1973, the first year surveyed.

To many Americans the idea

that tax-dodging is wrong has become blurry at best, says Mary Sprouse, a California-based tax expert and former IRS audit manager.

"Tax cheating used to be thought of as a criminal activity, similar to theft, but there has been a blurring of that line," she said. "It's become sort of 'street smart.'"

As an example of common tax-dodging gambits, Ms. Sprouse said many babysitters do not accept payment by cheque because cash income is easier to conceal from the tax collector.

Similarly, experts say, people who work at second jobs often don't report the income in the earnings statements which must be filed by an April 15 deadline. Others exaggerate deductions for business entertainment or the use

of their cars for work.

Some doctors, lawyers and pharmacists "skim" income by depositing only customers' cheques, not their cash payments, to hide part of their tax liability, says former U.S. Assistant Attorney General Robert Davis.

It all adds up to a non-compliance rate of 20 per cent of the total amount of taxes owed, officials say.

This year the U.S. government expects a record 100 million returns in a system that relies on people working out their own tax liability and then on voluntary compliance.

And a 1984 poll for the IRS conducted by the firm of Yankelevich, Skelly and White showed that many people simply assume that tax evasion is a commonplace practice: One out of four held that more than half the population does it.

Two-thirds believed they paid more than their fair share.

The complicated U.S. tax code produces examples every year of wide discrepancies in amounts paid. In one survey of 88 returns, 19 of those with gross annual incomes averaging \$250,000 paid less than \$500 in taxes.

The same survey said a family of four earning \$45,000 would pay about \$6,000 in taxes on average.

Evidence of tax-dodging is piling up at a time when President Reagan is pushing reform to simplify the system, bring down tax rates and correct inequities.

"The present situation has led to a loss of respect for the tax sys-

Millionaires are said to lead a hard life

By Alex Brummer

WHO WANTS to be a millionaire? "I don't," might be most people's response after reading a new study on America's, almost one million millionaires, for whom the lustre of being wealthy seems to be wearing thin.

The study of America's millionaires by Dr. Thomas Stanley, of the Georgia State University, has found that the traditional image of millionaires cavorting on the beaches of St. Tropez, driving their Cadillac or Rolls-Royce to the races or simply enjoying a good cigar, is far from reality.

America's average millionaire is more than likely to live a life of drudgery. His watch will be a \$50 Seiko rather than a \$1,000 Cartier; he wouldn't know a Picasso if he fell over it and be slaves away behind a counter until 6 p.m. each night — even on Saturdays, when the local baseball team is at home.

Professor Stanley, who says there are some 832,602 millionaires in the United States at present and that there will be one million by 1987, found that most of the country's rich are simply ordinary small businessmen leading humdrum, hard lives. They are more likely to be found at their dry cleaning shops on a Saturday afternoon than on the tennis court, or drinking instant coffee at the counter rather than Pims around the pool.

Millionaires tend to work longer hours than ordinary people, carry a credit card from a down-market department store such as Sears, have long-lasting marriages rather than fancy girl-friends or



TOUGH FIGHT — Faisaly's only goal in the first half scored by Khalid Awad (outside) flies into the net as Amman defenders, Jawhar and Shamlawi, try to save the ball. The match was held at Al Hussein Sports City stadium Sunday. The 120-

minute, original and extra time, battle ended in a 1-1 draw. The two teams then opted for free kicks and while Amman scored 3 out of 3, Faisaly failed to score any of its first three kicks, making the result 4-1 win for Amman.

Egypt, Iraq to play friendly soccer

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's soccer squad is in good shape for friendly matches against Iraq this week as the two sides prepare for World Cup qualifying ties, manager Abdou Salem Al Wahsh said Sunday.

Egypt, seeking to reach the World Cup finals for the first time

in more than 50 years, plays Morocco in a third round qualifier next month.

The Iraqi team, preparing to take on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in September, is due to arrive Monday for warm-up matches on June 27 and 30.

Wahsh told Reuters he planned

to field the 11 men most likely to start against Morocco, but declined to name the team.

He said all but star defender Ibrahim Youssef were injury-free in the 28-player Egyptian camp. He ruled out Youssef's participation in the Iraq friendlies and said he needed another week to decide whether he was fit to play against Morocco.

Egypt, who edged out Zimbabwe and Madagascar to reach the third round, last played in the finals in 1934.

Curry stops Baez in six rounds

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — American Donald Curry, the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight champion, captured his second straight junior middleweight bout Saturday by stopping Pablo Baez in the sixth round of a scheduled 10-round bout.

Curry, 23-0 with 18 knockouts, overwhelmed his opponent from the Dominican Republic with hand speed, crisp body punching, accurate left hooks and straight rights to the head.

Referee Larry Hazzard stopped the fight at 1:40 of the sixth round, seconds after issuing a standing eight count because Baez was absorbing several unanswered rights to the head along the ropes.

Curry dominated the fight immediately doubling with the left hand to score with jabs to the head and hooks to the body. He knocked Baez in the final minute of the opening round with a straight right counter punch to the head after Baez missed with a left hook.

Curry hurt Baez three times in the third round. A jab and a perfect straight right to the head made Baez's knees wobble early in the round. Two separate left hooks also staggered Baez. The second drove him to the corner where Curry opened up in vain looking for a knockout. With Baez offering little more than left hooks in retaliation he was a tired opponent by the sixth round.

"Pablo Baez gave me good work," said Curry, a 23-year-old

native of Fort Worth, Texas.

"He took some of my best shots. I hadn't been the six or seven rounds against bigger men," Curry said, referring to the fact he only went two rounds in stopping James Green for his first junior middleweight victory back in March.

"Pablo has a good chin and I worked the body more hoping to get his legs weary."

Baez, 17-13-1 with 13 knockouts, was impressed with Curry's defence. "I couldn't get in to throw anything," the 27-year-old Baez said.

Curry said he would oppose undisputed middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler in about a year "as soon as I become a natural middleweight."

Drechsler equals world's best, leaps 7.33 metres

EFURT, East Germany (R) — World champion Heike Drechsler recovered from two foul jumps to equal her world best this year for the women's long jump with a leap of 7.33 metres Saturday.

The 20-year-old Drechsler was competing for East Germany on the first day of a two-day athletics match against the Soviet Union.

Drechsler's duel with the Soviet Union's Galina Chistyakova, who finished second with a best jump of 7.27, was one of the highlights of a fine day's athletics.

"I took risks because I was going hard for victory and unfortunately it didn't work out at first," Drechsler said.

"I know I've got a world record

in me but I can't say when it will happen. Chistyakova and I spurred each other on."

World men's javelin record holder Uwe Hohn of East Germany also made a bad start with three foul throws, but recovered with an excellent winning effort of 96.90 metres.

Hohn's compatriot, Petra Felke, the first woman to throw the javelin further than 75 metres, won her event with a creditable 74.94 metres.

East Germany's world champion Marlies Gohr looked impressive in the 100 metres, beating compatriot Silke Gladisch into second place with a time of 11.19 seconds.

Wilander, Lloyd threaten Wimbledon crown holders

By Brian Creighton
Reader

Martina Navratilova, challengers for McEnroe's throne are less evident.

Until, that is, Wilander's feat are closely examined.

The 20-year-old Swede's triumph in the French open when he upset top-seeded McEnroe in the semifinals and number two Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the final was not a breakthrough.

It merely reaffirmed the vast talent Wilander displayed by taking his first French title in 1982, when he was just 17.

Yet that excellence on clay would not by itself be enough to elevate Wilander to the ranks of the top Wimbledon contenders.

He has also won the last two Australian opens, on grass, for a total of four Grand Slam titles two

months before his 21st birthday.

Not even Borg matched that. Borg, Wilander's compatriot, won five Wimbledon titles in succession but only one of them, along with two French titles, came before he was 21.

Now Wilander looks ready to launch a move up from the world number four position he holds behind McEnroe, Lendl and a second American, Jimmy Connors.

He seems to have the ability, but there are doubts about his dedication.

"I'm practising but I'm not prepared to practise eight hours a day to become number one," he said after his French victory.

He has no plans for a special diet such as Lendl's to improve his fit-

ness.

Nor did Wilander, whose win in Paris was his first of 1985, embark on a particular training regimen for Wimbledon. He went back to Sweden to play golf last week and this week he has contented himself with some charity matches in Ireland.

Yet he seemed secure with the net rushing tactics he used to beat Lendl in Paris, tactics he will need to tame McEnroe and the other big serve-and-volley guns of Wimbledon.

It is, he said, "something I worked on quite a bit. I feel quite comfortable at net. I showed myself and everybody that this is my game."

Wilander does not have a successful Wimbledon history. He reached the third round unseeded in 1981, but since then he has failed three times to justify his seeding. Last year, when he was rated fourth, he lost in four sets in the second round to Pat Cash of Australia.

Wilander has another incentive when he begins his bid here on Monday with a centre-court battle against giant young Yugoslav Slobodan Zivojinovic.

His victories in the Australian and French opens, as do Lloyd's, move him halfway towards a one million dollar bonus which will be theirs if they complete the Grand Slam by winning here and at the U.S. open in September.

While Wilander is the biggest threat to McEnroe on form, though not on seeding, there is no question that Lloyd rates on both

counts as the most dangerous rival for Navratilova, the winner the last three years and, previously, in 1978 and 1979.

Her sterling 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 victory over Navratilova in the French final, also put her back in front of her rival in the rankings for the first time in three years.

That triumph also left Wimbledon organisers in a quandary, which they neatly ducked by naming the two as joint top seeds.

While Navratilova's record over the past year is superior, Lloyd has been better for the last six months. And while Lloyd is ranked number one, Navratilova is the greater on grass.

Still, it is a surface on which Lloyd maintains she has as good a chance as any of beating Navratilova.

"I always feel I have the best chance against her on a grass surface," Lloyd said. "On clay, she can run everything down, wait for the opening, and come in. On grass, I can play more aggressively. I can rush her more by coming in. I feel more comfortable on a faster surface with her now."

They seem certain to clash in the final for the fifth time and Navratilova has won the other four.

Of the other men's challengers, Lendl and the other Swedes have not yet proved themselves on grass, while Connors' losses to Lendl in Paris and to fellow-American Mike DePalmer in London in the first round, the following week indicate he may be fading.

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Monetary stability needs building reliable standard

By Arthur B. Laffer
and Nayef S. Za'bi

Arthur Laffer is the "guru of tax revolt" and the mastermind of "Reaganomics". He is also the chairman of A.B. Laffer Associates, a leading business consulting firm, and a potential Senate candidate. Nayef S. Za'bi is a Ph.D. graduate in business. He is also a graduate of University of Southern California (USC) School of Engineering. Dr. Za'bi teaches at (USC) School of Business.

The article, responding to some comments by Mr. Fahed Faneek, emphasizes that growth policy is the answer and that distributional policy is the problem.

"Lenin is said to have declared that the best way to destroy the capitalist system was to debauch the currency... Lenin was certainly right. There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of a society than to debauch the currency. The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner which no man in a million is able to diagnose." J.M. Keynes, Essays, In Persuasion (1931), reprinted by W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., N.Y., 1963, pp. 77-78.

The Federal Reserve announcement on Oct. 6, 1979, that it will place a greater emphasis on day-to-day operations on the supply of bank reserves and less emphasis on confirming short term fund rates — i.e., the rate on the reserves that banks lend one another for shorter period of time — supplemented by an increase in discount rate, an increase in reserve requirements for certain liabilities, and winning the agreement of foreign central banks to support the dollar, has risen hopes

that the spring is finally coming, when the long sought goals of monetary policy — low inflation, low interest rate, and price stability — are finally coming.

'Phillips curve'

The basic premise behind the Federal Reserve (Central Bank) move is the "monetarist school" notion that there exists a consistent, though not precise, relationship between price level, measured, and controlled transaction quantity of money defined as M1 (currency and demand deposits in commercial banks) and the level of economic activity. An acceleration or deceleration of money growth relative to a trend will be accompanied, over the short run, and with some lag, by an increase (decrease) in the nominal Gross National Product (GNP), which under the short run rigidity of prices would mean higher (lower) real level of output. The long run effect is inflationary (deflationary), with no effect on real output, a phenomenon that was

dubbed the vertical "Phillips curve".

The policy prescription of the "monetarist school" is that by confining monetary growth rates within bounds, consistent with a reasonable estimate of the long-term trend of the growth in real income, the objective of a sound monetary policy would be achieved: namely, price stability, low inflation, and low interest rates.

Theoretically speaking, the control of the quantity of money could control inflation rates. Practical application is not within reach.

The frustration was reflected in the cautious statement of Mr. Volker where he said "I do not believe that in actual implementation of monetary policy, we have any alternative but to attach much less than usual weight to movements in M1 over the period ahead... the fact that, for the time being, underlying monetary growth and reserve provisions cannot be gauged by directly observing movements in M1 — up or down — is a technical way of life; it has no broader policy significance."

Innovation undermines controls

The excessive concentration on the supply of money neglects or, at best, undermines the role of the demand for money. The private sector's ability to shift demand deposits into money market funds, dollars or credit cards undermine the ability to control the money

supply hypothesis.

The ability of private sector to change the composition of demand deposit, time deposit, and currency also makes it difficult to make control of the money supply a practical measure.

The innovation in the financial markets, deemed it difficult to distinguish between money and near monies so that a satisfactory definition of transaction quantity of money becomes an elusive concept.

In a world that is as financially integrated as ours, monies being more or less substitute in demand, will make the independence of national monetary authorities in controlling their monetary affairs quite questionable. The movements in the Eurodollar markets, for example, have been very much correlated with Federal Reserve (Fed) policy. The plots of the growth in Eurodollar markets and U.S. money supply do not fail in showing that the first was growing fast or slow when Fed policy was tight or loose.

Trusting monetary policy where the aggregate monetary quantity is not immune to measurement errors reminds one of a famous charge by Keynes, of the gold standard being "a barbarous relic." We need not have "monetary aggregate" as our newly created relic. The revision of monetary aggregates, proved to be erroneous in many cases, limits to a degree their use as policy gauge and variable. The classical solution, on the other hand, focuses on the very

important aspect of money as a contract between issuing authority and money holders. It is the duty of the monetary authority to guarantee the value of money.

Imagine for a moment that you know with perfect certainty that a dollar thirty years from now and all intervening periods would purchase the same amount of goods and services as a dollar today. Where would interest rates be?

If such confidence were to replace today's uncertainty, short-term treasury bills rates once again would be three per cent. Also, the prime rate would stand at four per cent, while 30-year treasury bonds will not exceed five per cent. Now, rates on 3-month treasury bills, prime rates, and 30-year treasury bonds are 7.9, 10.75, and 11.48 per cent respectively.

Sacrificing price stability

Historical precedence strongly suggests that price stability was sacrificed, where governments failed to guarantee the quality of product over which it had quasi-monopoly power, i.e., the liabilities of the monetary authority.

Nobel Laureate Hayek contends that inflation has been made politically easier by the removal of two institutional brakes: The gold standard and fixed exchange rate. During the reign of the gold standard, prices were at the end about where they had been at the beginning.

Keynes in his "Monetary Reform" indicates that for the period from 1826 to the outbreak of World War I maximum fluctuations in either directions were 30 points, the price index over

rising above 130 and never falling below 70. The price index in 1967 stood at 100 and rose to 270 in 1981.

The most recent experience of debasement of the dollar in 1971 can teach us many lessons. In 1971 the consumer price index which stood at 43 per cent jumped to 11 per cent in 1974. The 3-month treasury bills rose from 3.4 per cent to 9.9 per cent. The inflation rate, while averaging less than two per cent in 1950s and 1960s, set a new record average of more than seven per cent in 1970s.

Though classical school and monetarists fundamentally disagree on the means to achieve the goals of monetary policy, it is interesting to note that both theories are not incompatible. It is true that in the era of convertibility the excessive growth of money was contained.

Reliable standard

Keynes in his seminal work "Treatise of Money" once said that so long as "countries adhere to the gold standard there is merit in the claim that it keeps slowly currency systems up to the mark."

Hayek sounded another support when he said: "I would even agree that among the feasible monetary systems the international gold standard is the best, if I could believe that the most important countries could be trusted to obey the rules necessary for its preservation."

Instead of leaving money to the central bankers and ministers of finance why not have a more reliable standard? Gold need not be the barbarous relic. The issue then is building a reliable standard."

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad N. Batshon

AMMAN — On Monday, the U.S. dollar edged up above 3.06 German marks, because dealers were not willing to take short positions in the currency in the face of lower oil prices; despite an easier federal funds rate in the 7.25 per cent area and widespread speculation the Federal Reserve (Fed) will lower the U.S. discount rate from 7.5 per cent to seven per cent.

On Tuesday, the dollar fell through the psychological 3.00 marks support level, and against most major foreign currencies on the heels of prime rate cuts by most major U.S. banks. Trading was minimal as the market was awaiting Thursday's estimate of U.S. second-quarter Gross National Product (GNP) figures.

The British pound eased against the dollar on reports of Mexican oil-price cuts and Saudi Arabia's refusal to cut production.

On Wednesday, the dollar closed higher as it rebounded from Tuesday's sharp downturn. But the unexpected 0.5 per cent drop in U.S. May personal income, combined with Fed funds trading below seven per cent limited the dollar's gains.

On Thursday, the dollar rose on the higher than expected 3.1 per cent rise in second-quarter real U.S. GNP, which indicated a strengthening in U.S. interest rates. The firmer Fed funds rate and the relatively low inflation rate, with May consumer prices increasing only 0.2 per cent, also bolstered the dollar.

The dollar was higher at the close on the \$4.8 billion rise in the U.S. M-1 money supply for the week which was larger than expected. As a result, an already firm dollar was prepared to rise on any GNP increase that came in the higher end of general expectations.

The metals market rose sharply at the beginning of the week on the news that most major U.S. banks had cut their prime rates. Gold reached the \$328.75 an ounce level and silver \$6.50 an ounce.

On Thursday, and in the light of all the positive economic news for the dollar the metals market fell. Gold dropped to close in New York at \$313.70 and silver closed down at \$6.11.

Technically, both gold and silver will remain in their respective narrow trading ranges \$310-\$330 and \$6.00-\$6.50, and in the short run, barring any unforeseen political situations, continue to see no reason for the established ranges to be violated.

On Friday's close, the German mark was closed at 3.06 30 50, sterling closed at 1.28 55 70, the Swiss franc closed at 2.56 10 40, the Japanese yen closed at 247.95 05 and the French franc closed at 9.33 25 75.

Gold closed at \$314.30-\$314.80 an ounce. Silver closed at \$6.11-\$6.13 an ounce.

Constraints hamstringing European gas industry

GUILDFORD, England (OPECNA) — Western Europe can double its natural gas market by the year 2000, with prices at between a half and two-thirds of current levels, provided governments and institutional constraints are removed, a leading energy expert said here recently.

Prof. Peter Odell, director of the Centre for International Energy Studies at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, said the gas industry continued to be held back by a combination of inadequate demand and arising from too high prices and unrealised potential supply resulting from government attitudes and policies.

He told an international gas conference organised by the Surrey University Energy Economics Centre that as a result of the restraint, exploration and development of the continent's plentiful reserves had been inhibited.

Prof. Odell said past gas policies in Europe had led to an increasing dependence on high-cost energy sources, including coal and nuclear power.

He also highlighted concern over the "increasingly acrimonious" relationships which were developing between European gas producers "desperate for markets".

Mr. Odell said that if the poli-

cies which had produced an uncompetitive pricing situation in Western Europe were changed, countries which exported gas to the region would lose out in the short term. But as gas use slowly expanded — with a possible doubling of its present 16 per cent contribution to European energy needs — the outside exporters could look forward to profitable business.

Mr. Chris Brierley, managing director for economic planning with the British Gas Corporation, said the U.K. industry was not "drawing in its horns" as a result of the government's cancellation of its plan to buy large gas supplies from Norway's Sleipner field.

But he warned that while Britain had enough supplies to take it to the 1990s, it might eventually be forced to buy at less advantageous prices.

Delegates heard from Mr. Michael Kaser, a specialist on Soviet affairs at Oxford University, that the aim of the Soviet Union — which had two-fifths of the world's natural gas reserves — was to step up gas sales to Western Europe to earn hard currency lost by diminishing oil exports to the West.

He said there had been an explosion in Soviet gas output from 45 billion cubic metres in 1960 to 587 billion cubic metres in 1984.

Analyst predicts golden years for OPEC in 1990s

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will clearly be back in the driver's seat in the 1990s, with its share in the world oil market doubled, asserts an American analyst in an interview with the Washington-based "U.S. News and World Report" magazine.

Mr. Charles Ebinger, director of the energy and strategic resources programme at Georgetown University and consultant to the U.S. Federal Energy Administration, says since most oil that can be produced by non-OPEC countries is already being produced, each additional barrel of oil needed to meet rising world demand in the 1990s will come from OPEC.

Though classical school and monetarists fundamentally disagree on the means to achieve the goals of monetary policy, it is interesting to note that both theories are not incompatible. It is true that in the era of convertibility the excessive growth of money was contained.

He says the current prices and supplies lure consumers into complacency and notes that energy consumption is again on the rise.

"Oil companies, because of uncertainty over price and demand... are cutting back on the search for oil and gas," he adds.

Utilities are not investing in new generating plants needed to meet the growing demand for electricity. Commercial inventories of gasoline and crude oil are at the lowest level in more than a decade, he adds.

Mr. Ebinger says in the 1990s, the U.S. and the USSR will need more Middle East oil to replace declining domestic production.

"Japan and Europe also will remain dependent on this region that possesses 57 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves," he states.

He considers the outlook for major new oil discoveries as not encouraging, citing a recent study by the U.S. geological survey which estimated that two-thirds of

the oil in the world had already been discovered — "enough to last roughly 60 years at the present rate of consumption."

"But most of this oil is concentrated in the Gulf and further discoveries are not likely to change the situation," he asserts.

Mr. Ebinger says the British sector of the North Sea, the north slope in Alaska and "lower U.S. production" may go into decline. The "giant finds" hoped for in China have not occurred, while the country may not only need most of the oil eventually found but may even become a small importer itself.

On prices, he argues that "if energy prices stay low or even drop, we can be assured there will be less and less emphasis on conservation."

He says that without investment in energy projects today, the "seeds of our next oil shock in the 1990s" may well be in creation now.

"People forget about the long lead time it takes to develop new energy resources. Now 1990 may seem like a long time to the general public and an administration concerned about policy between now and the 1986 congressional elections. But 1990 already is history in terms of energy supply," he states.

The analyst, who believes that oil prices will rise in the future, says electricity demand is increasing at a stronger rate than predicted.

Study warns of serious food shortage in Gulf

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — A study by the Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture warns of a serious shortage of food in the Gulf region if no immediate measures are taken to achieve self-sufficiency.

The study says the agricultural area in the Gulf state totals 6.16 million hectares, of which only 286,000 hectares are being cultivated.

"The pattern of consumption of some basic foodstuffs, such as grain, and the poor local food production, suggests that the region will face a great shortage of food," the study warns.

It recommends several proposals, which could achieve self-sufficiency in the region. These include:

- Reclamation of more land and an increase in the cultivated areas in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Oman.
- Proper attention to be given

to the agricultural sector and encouragement to farmers. The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has already become an exporter of some fruits and vegetables, could be taken as a model.

— Expansion of the utilisation of scientific methods such as greenhouse and drip irrigation to overcome the obstacles caused by the harsh climatic conditions in the mostly desert areas.

— Establishment of local fertiliser and insecticides industries.

— Support and encouragement to the food industry.

— Setting up of a joint regional authority to monitor supply and demand of foodstuffs.

— Development of fisheries, which could be major source of food if properly exploited.

— Promotion of dairy, egg and chicken production.

— Establishment of other agricultural and industrial projects in the region.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day for starting the new week right by getting into the specifics of whatever plans are in mind and being able to get them done in a highly efficient and operative manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Ideal day to make your environment more charming and functional and to add greater efficiency to your regular work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make a frontal attack on your career work and get great results at this time. Also get your entertainments set up for the week.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get home conditions nicely improved this evening, after a busy day at business.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get in touch with those who are successful and work out a plan with them which can also make you more prosperous.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have the right practical method through which you can become more successful, so start putting it to use now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If attained properly you should arrive in a most happy frame of mind and can make a fine impression on those who count.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Being with your closest tie and establishing greater harmony between you is wise. Show that you are able to do the right thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Go to see friends you admire and show that you want to see more of them in the future. You can enjoy some social pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get deeply involved in your finest activities and you can improve your status easily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A day for expansion in business so that you can command a greater income in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Doing what will please the one you love is wise. Make arrangements for occasional fun in the days ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get in touch with outsiders who can be of assistance in gaining your finest aims. Then handle travel matters.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can do almost anything right, so be sure to give as fine an education as you possibly can and send to college. Teach to study the motives behind any undertaking before becoming involved with it, and thereby atone off possible trouble.

THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Santrey

ACROSS

- 1 M. Zola
- 2 Maintain
- 3 Forward spot on a horse
- 4 More mature
- 5 Sky god
- 6 Angel of old time
- 7 Pool shot
- 8 WWI group
- 9 Dialectic connection
- 10 Singer Ed
- 11 Giving whys and wherefores
- 12 Thoughts
- 13 Chevrolets
- 14 Pleading grade
- 15 Shoe section
- 16 Gr. letter
- 17 Core
- 18 Inflator's by
- 19 "The Story of..." (1975 film)
- 20 Military band
- 21 Hammingway hero
- 22 Steers
- 23 Bird's measure
- 24 Grouches prep
- 25 Shaved hat
- 26 Dams
- 27 Phony appearance
- 28 Roosevelt's pal
- 29 Starch
- 30 Buried
- 31 Arctic beads
- 32 Icelandic leader
- 33 Identity
- 34 "Lipitor" will — contest
- 35 Skin style
- 36 N.C. college
- 37 Tiresias
- 38 Anybody ones
- 39 La
- 40 Tiresias
- 41 — Park, Colo.

DOWN

- 1 Hammett
- 2 Bottom line
- 3 "Gold Coast" city
- 4 Unproved assertion
- 5 Diminish
- 6 Before
- 7 Quoted from
- 8 Bugbears
- 9 Used-car deal
- 10 Bridge
- 11 Baneful
- 12 Solo
- 13 Soaps
- 14 Prohibit
- 15 Smidgen
- 16 Cio's undoing
- 17 Major work
- 18 Scold
- 19 Ramble
- 20 Cartoonist
- 21 Gardner
- 22 Most secure
- 23 Barbers
- 24 Property holder
- 25 Beluga
- 26 Dancer Jose
- 27 Last soul
- 28 Alghieri
- 29 Portable horse
- 30 Mirth
- 31 Disorder
- 32 Simian

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

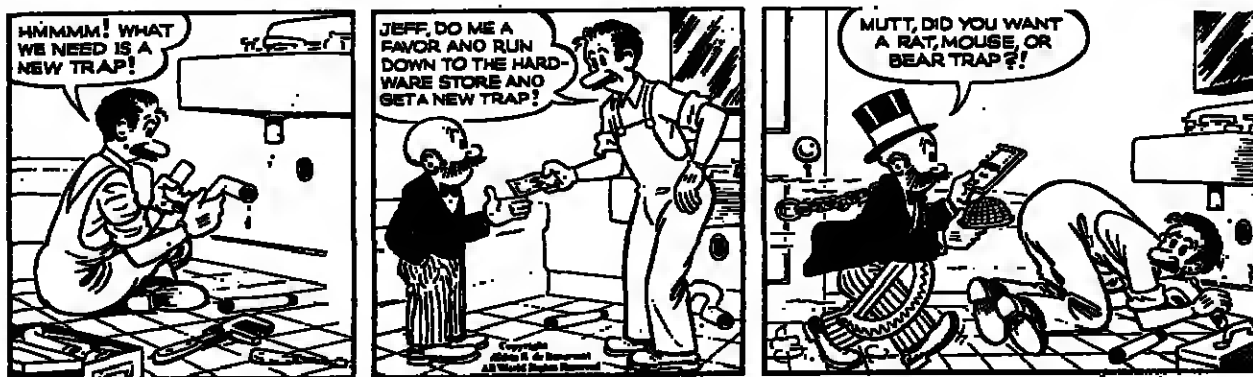
ACROSS: 1. M. Zola, 2. Maintain, 3. Forward spot on a horse, 4. More mature, 5. Sky god, 6. Angel of old time, 7. Pool shot, 8. WWI group, 9. Dialectic connection, 10. Singer Ed, 11. Giving whys and wherefores, 12. Thoughts, 13. Chevrolets, 14. Pleading grade, 15. Shoe section, 16. Gr. letter, 17. Core, 18. Inflator's by, 19. "The Story of..." (1975 film), 20. Military band, 21. Hammingway hero, 22. Steers, 23. Bird's measure, 24. Grouches prep, 25. Shaved hat, 26. Dams, 27. Phony appearance, 28. Roosevelt's pal, 29. Starch, 30. Buried, 31. Arctic beads, 32. Icelandic leader, 33. Identity, 34. "Lipitor" will — contest, 35. Skin style, 36. N.C. college, 37. Tiresias, 38. Anybody ones, 39. La, 40. Tiresias, 41. — Park, Colo.

DOWN: 1. Hammett, 2. Bottom line, 3. "Gold Coast" city, 4. Unproved assertion, 5. Diminish, 6. Before, 7. Quoted from, 8. Bugbears, 9. Used-car deal, 10. Bridge, 11. Baneful, 12. Solo, 13. Soaps, 14. Prohibit, 15. Smidgen, 16. Cio's undoing, 17. Major work, 18. Scold, 19. Ramble, 20. Cartoonist, 21. Gardner, 22. Most secure, 23. Barbers, 24. Property holder, 25. Beluga, 26. Dancer Jose, 27. Last soul, 28. Alghieri, 29. Portable horse, 30. Mirth, 31. Disorder, 32. Simian.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

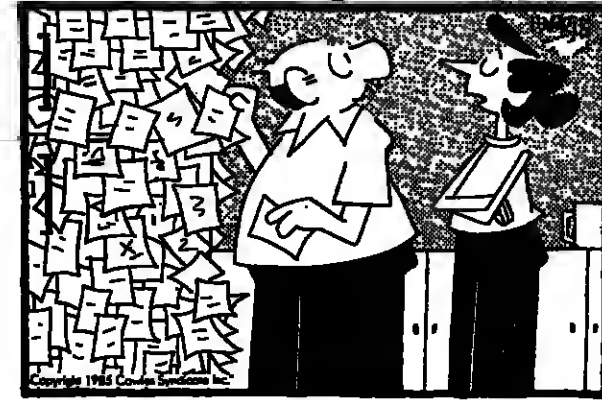


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOCEL

HAGUL

WRAITE

ZALBER

Print answer here: HES

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MINER LUCID TUSLE GIGGLE
Answer: What she said at the costume party — "DIS-GUISE" FOR ME! (The guy's for me)

Bangladesh floods maroon 1.5m people

DHAKA (R) — Thousands of Bangladesh's latest flood victims are huddling on water washed river dykes because officials say relief camps set up by the government are too small.

An estimated 1.5 million people have been marooned by monsoon floods surging through four northern and eastern districts.

Officials in the worst-hit area of Moulvibazar district, bordering India's Assam state, told Reuters by telephone thousands of people sought sanctuary at the camps each day. Many were forced to camp out on top of flood embankments flanking the Manu River.

"The camps are already overcrowded, and many people were asked to live with friends and relatives or to set up rickety camps by their own on the river embankments," one official said.

Troops and police have so far rescued 15,000 families in Moulvibazar and nearby Habiganj. Thousands more have abandoned their homes in eastern Comilla and Brahmanbaria and Rangpur in the north.

The flood forecasting centre reported Sunday that the rivers Surma, Khawaj and Dbaria still were floating 0.3 to 0.6 metres above the danger mark although flood waters began receding Saturday evening.

The government-owned Ban-

gladesh Times newspaper said Sunday at least seven people had died in floods in Moulvibazar alone.

Rivers in the affected areas, still flowing above danger levels, were expected to start falling soon as it had not rained Saturday. Dhaka weather bureau said Sunday.

Authorities in Dhaka have started sending money and relief supplies to the flood victims while medical teams were on standby to go in as soon as the water receded.

The flood was the second disaster to hit Bangladesh in less than a month. More than 11,000 people died and 250,000 were made homeless by tidal waves caused by a cyclone on May 24.

Meanwhile, another 50 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases were reported Sunday in Noakhali district bringing to 214 the death toll from diseases that followed last month's hurricane's destruction in southern Bangladesh coastal areas and offshore islands last month.

The newspaper New Nation said Sunday the latest 50 victims, most of them children, died Thursday and Friday in Noakhali, 275 kilometres south of Dhaka.

Zhao hails European tour as total success

PEKING (R) — Premier Zhao Ziyang Sunday predicted a swift boost in China's links with Britain, West Germany, and the Netherlands after the signing of nuclear and economic pacts.

Mr. Zhao, stopping in the southwestern province of Sichuan on the way home from his European tour, told reporters: "My visit to the three countries was a complete success. I believe China's relations with them will develop rapidly in the future."

During his trip, he signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with Britain and a memorandum on long-term nuclear energy cooperation with a West German reactor supplier, Kraftwerk Union (KWU).

The official New China News

Agency quoted Vice Premier Tian Jiyun, who accompanied Mr. Zhao, as saying leaders of the three countries had agreed to "strengthen consultations and cooperation in opposing the arms race and easing world tension."

China, he said, regarded Western Europe as a buttress for peace. It wanted to see the region stronger and more united.

Last year Mr. Zhao visited France, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Italy.

Western diplomats say Peking is anxious to cultivate ties with Western Europe as a counterweight to the two superpowers and as an alternative source of technology to Japan, China's largest trading partner.

Gandhi gives ultimatum to head of riot-hit state

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Sunday issued a ultimatum to the head of the riot-hit state of Gujarat to stamp out violence which has killed nearly 200 people.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Sunday Mr. Gandhi had sent five senior officials to Ahmedabad, Gujarat's biggest city, as violence claimed three more lives over the weekend.

PTI said the team would help local authorities curb street battles triggered by protests against a government policy reserving jobs and college places for the underprivileged.

Indian newspapers said New

Delhi had given the western state's Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki a fortnight to quell unrest which erupted three months ago.

The Patriot said the government had told Mr. Solanki he had 15 days to restore order. The Times of India said Mr. Solanki would soon be told to quit.

The chief minister has ordered the release of jailed students, a judicial probe into the clashes and the freezing of plans to raise the job quotas.

Students who spearheaded protests against the government's jobs policy denounced Mr. Solanki's moves as unsatisfactory and vowed to press on with the agitation.

Sikh journalist dies in jail, Delhi orders probe

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Sikh editor of a Punjab-language weekly newspaper died in a New Delhi prison 13 days after he was jailed for publishing a letter to Indian President Zail Singh by a former police officer, authorities announced Sunday.

The government ordered a magistrate to probe the death of the 70-year-old editor, Dalip Singh Bhatia. Bhatia's body was handed over to his relatives after a post-mortem examination. The post-mortem findings were not known.

Prison officials said Bhatia died of a heart stroke. Bhatia was charged with sedition — which is punishable by life imprisonment — for publishing the letter of Sirmajit Singh Mann to the president in his small New Delhi-based paper, "Sachcho Sachhi" (Truthful Truth). Mann resigned from the elite

Indian Police Service (IPS) in June, 1984, to protest the Indian army assault on the Golden Temple, the holy Sikh shrine in Amritsar. He was subsequently jailed on charges of anti-national activity. Once linked with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, Mann was appointed the chief of the breakaway Akali Dal Party last month by Sikh extremists.

Mann's letter, which alleged atrocities against Sikhs, has been published in a book but no action so far has been taken against its authors and publisher.

The government or Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who took power after the assassination of his mother, has adopted tough legislation against all "subversive" activities, including publication of material found to be encouraging anti-state propaganda.

Afghan tanks reportedly kill 3 in Pakistani town

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan tanks killed three people and injured four in a direct shelling attack on a Pakistani border town, officials said Sunday. Four tanks stationed at the Frontier fired 23 shells at Chaman Saturday, seven of which landed in the town, the officials in the Baluchistan provincial capital Quetta said.

The shells, first to land in the Baluchistan border town since the war between rebels and the Soviet-backed Afghan government began six years ago, damaged three houses and some railway workers quarters, they said.

Afghan artillery and jets have frequently shelled and bombed Pakistan's border areas but rarely hit populated centres. The 45-minute shelling killed a man, a woman and a four-year-old child.

Chaman, 100 kilometres north of Quetta, has a large Afghan population, some rebel party offices and three small clinics for wounded who make their way across the heavily-mined border. The officials said Afghan troops stationed across the no-man's land at the border fired on the Pakistani frontier post there on Friday night, provoking return fire.

Indirect talks between Afghan and Pakistani delegations are continuing in Geneva under U.N. auspices. The talks, which resumed last week after an almost one-year break, follow new signs that a political solution could be found to end the five-year-old Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The U.N. representative to the talks, Diego Cordovez, told reporters earlier this week that withdrawal of Soviet forces supporting the Kabul government of President Babrak Karmal was one of the issues that the Afghan delegation has agreed to discuss.

U.S. and Soviet officials are discussing the Afghanistan issue in Washington at the same time as the Geneva talks.

The Afghan and Pakistani teams, which are not meeting directly, are discussing four issues.

—Non-intervention and non-interference; —International guarantors for a settlement of the conflict; —Repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan; and

—Finding a way to address the question withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Indian Muslim grandmother wins battle against Islamic council

NEW DELHI (AP) — A defiant Muslim grandmother won her battle Saturday against a mosque council which had sentenced her to 101 public lashes and shaving her head as punishment for alleged adultery.

Sulekha Beevi, 46, became a cause celebre in southern Kerala state for defying the mosque leaders who ordered her to undergo public beating and humiliation.

The mosque council announced Saturday it was dropping all charges of adultery and drinking liquor against the woman whose case aroused widespread public outrage. Indignant state officials said India's uniform legal code takes precedence over traditional Islamic law handed down by village

elders.

The council, called the Jamaat Committee, said it was convinced the charges against the woman with eight children and eight grandchildren were baseless, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

Her husband also appealed to the elders to drop the charges which he called false and malicious. The council called on everyone to forget the agony caused to Mrs. Beevi and her family.

Mrs. Beevi had refused to appear before the council and undergo punishment and threatened to sue them if they ordered her village to ostracise her and her family.

Mrs. Beevi rejected the punishment ordered April 18 and in-



BLAST AFTERMATH: Helmeted Japanese security police stand near a baggage container which exploded at Japan's Narita airport killing two and injuring several others (Story on page 1)

Nepal suspects 'foreign hand' in bomb attacks

KATMANDU (Agencies) — Authorities investigating terrorist bomb blasts that killed seven people have uncovered important clues indicating possible foreign involvement, according to a senior spokesman.

"A foreign hand cannot be ruled out," Chin Thapa, the royal palace spokesman told the Associated Press. "The people of Nepal feel that the coordination and planning (of the bombings) is probably beyond the capability of any Nepali group or persons."

Thapa did not elaborate, but authorities earlier said an Indian was arrested while crossing the border with explosive devices.

King Birendra of Nepal has vowed to catch bombers responsible for the blasts as five former prime ministers urged him to seek a settlement with his political opponents.

"My government is making every effort to track down the culprits," the 39-year-old ruler said Saturday in response to a message of sympathy sent by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Journalists' Nicaraguan 'copter' comes under fire from Costa Rica

MANAGUA (R) — A military helicopter carrying foreign journalists to a former rebel airstrip near the Nicaraguan border came under mortar and machine gun fire from Costa Rica, the journalists said.

The journalists told Reuters the attack on Friday from a hill about 500 metres inside Costa Rica began as they were getting out of the helicopter at La Penca on the banks of the San Juan River, the boundary between the two countries.

"We threw ourselves to the ground and stayed there for 20 minutes," said Daniel Caselli of Southern Cone Press. The helicopter later took off safely for a nearby military base, the journalists said.

The Nicaraguan government has accused Costa Rica of allowing rebels to use Costa Rican territory to launch the mortar attacks this week against La Penca.

The Nicaraguan army recovered La Penca earlier this month during a major offensive in the south against rebels of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE).

Costa Rica has repeatedly denied that it allows ARDE rebels to operate bases in its territory.

Unmanned cargo craft docks with Salyut-7

MOSCOW (AP) — An unmanned cargo craft docked with the orbiting Salyut-7 space station Sunday, taking supplies to two cosmonauts who have been working at the station for two weeks, the official news agency TASS reported.

TASS said automatic docking of the Progress-24 cargo ship with the space station was completed at 6:34 a.m. (0254 GMT).

Radio Moscow reported in its hourly English-language broadcast that the transport ship carried more than two tons of fuel, material for scientific experiments, water and air supplies, food and mail.

Radio Moscow said Progress-24 was the 12th cargo ship to dock with Salyut-7. It said, cargo ships "make it possible to speedily deliver to the station everything necessary for long-term expeditions," indicating the two cosmonauts may be preparing for a lengthy stay in space.

Veteran cosmonaut Col. Vladimir Dzhanibekov, 43, and Flight Engineer Viktor Savinykh, 45, boarded Salyut-7 June 8 in the first manned Soviet space mission launched in nearly a year.

The two burst into space June 6 aboard the Soyuz T-13. Salyut-7 had been empty since a crew of three cosmonauts returned to earth Oct. 2, 1984, after a record 237 days in space.

TASS said systems aboard the space station and the cargo vessel "are functioning normally" and the two cosmonauts are feeling well.

Abdul Wahid, Mrs. Beevi's husband, said the charges against his wife were "baseless and fabricated." He rushed from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where he worked to help his wife, UNI reported.

Mr. Wahid said some people who were antagonistic to his family extracted a false statement from a man accusing his wife of adultery.

Opposition political parties had welcomed Mrs. Beevi's stand and urged the state government to give her legal assistance.

N.A. Karim, vice chancellor of Kerala University, had condemned the Jamaat Committee's earlier verdict as "crude, cruel and

Sri Lankan president sees end to Tamil problem before end of 1985

COLOMBO (R) — President Junius Jayewardene hopes for a solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problems before the end of the year but says guerrilla violence and demands for a separate Tamil state must end first.

"Come what may, support or opposition, before the end of this year I hope to see an end to the plague that has plagued this country and its people for several years," he told a Buddhist ceremony in the outskirts of Colombo Saturday night.

Mr. Jayewardene said the solution should not take away the right of the Sinhalese or Tamils: "We don't propose to agree to anything that diminishes the rights of the Sinhalese or any minority," he said.

Tamils, 12.6 per cent of the island's 15 million people, are campaigning for a separate state in northern and eastern provinces where most of them live. They complain they are treated as second class citizens by a government dominated by majority Sinhalese.

The president's statement came five days after the government said guerrillas waging a hit-and-run war for a Tamil state had agreed to end hostilities. No incidents have been reported since Tuesday's ceasefire announcement.

The president said any solution found would be brought before parliament for approval.

He said guerrilla violence could be controlled with the help of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. "With his help we can begin more vigorously to control terrorism in our country," Mr. Jayewardene said.

Political sources said the Indian government had applied pressure on the guerrillas to stop hostile acts in order to create a suitable atmosphere for a political solution.

"I had been urging the government of India that they should not permit terrorists operating in Sri Lanka to find a haven on Indian soil," Mr. Jayewardene said.

The ceasefire followed talks between Mr. Jayewardene and Mr. Gandhi in the Indian capital earlier this month at which the two leaders agreed violence must end to create a proper atmosphere for a political solution.

India agreed to help to end the ethnic unrest because the 50 million Tamils in the south Indian Tamil Nadu state have close religious and cultural links with Sri Lankan Tamils.

India agreed to help to end the ethnic unrest because the 50 million Tamils in the south Indian Tamil Nadu state have close religious and cultural links with Sri Lankan Tamils.

Man jumps naked from papal altar

VATICAN CITY (R) — An Italian man stripped naked and threw himself Friday night from the papal altar in St. Peter's Basilica to the shrine below, breaking an arm and a leg, police said.

Antonio Grippo, 37, fought off two attendants who tried to stop him jumping off the altar, watched by a crowd of visiting pilgrims. He fell nearly four metres and was taken to hospital where he told staff: "I wanted to fly."

Italian priest, builder jailed

POTENZA, Italy (R) — An Italian parish priest and a builder have been jailed after being found partly responsible for the deaths of 66 people when a church collapsed during an earthquake in southern Italy in November 1980.

Father Salvatore Paggiuca and Antonio Claps were each sentenced to three years and eight months on charges of manslaughter, violating building laws and negligence. Their sentences were reduced to one year and eight months under the terms of a parliamentary amnesty. Prosecution lawyers said Father Paggiuca and Claps had been negligent and had flouted building laws when the old wooden floor of the church was covered with concrete in 1972. This has contributed to the building's collapse in the earthquake, the court found.

Dioxin waste finally destroyed after 9 years

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — The poisonous dioxin-contaminated waste from a factory blast in northern Italy nine years ago was finally destroyed Friday, a spokesman for the Swiss chemicals group Ciba-Geigy said.

Ciba-Geigy had undertaken to incinerate the three tonnes of waste material containing about 200 grammes of dioxin which is estimated to be 10,000 times as deadly as cyanide. The material escaped during a blast in 1976 at a plant in Seveso of another Swiss chemicals giant, Hoffmann-La Roche.

An area of 1,800 hectares was polluted by the cloud of dioxin, which forced hundreds of families to abandon their homes. Killed livestock and caused severe skin damage. The poisonous material caused international concern in 1982 when it mysteriously went missing for eight months before being discovered in a disused slaughterhouse in northern France.

Pollen from polar trees plagues Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Muscovites are being plagued by fluffy white bundles of pollen from polar trees which is carpeting parks like a blanket of snow and has been floating above the city since last week. It sticks to clothes, tickles eyes and noses, and settles in every corner.

The "pukh" as the Russians call it, caused a fire at one of Moscow's largest international hotels last week after it got into the air conditioning system and workers decided to clear it by setting it alight, according to a Soviet source.

The problem is caused by 350,000 poplar trees planted after World War II in an attempt to brighten up the city. Poplars were chosen because they grow quickly and easily. Though the trees bring splashes of leafy green to dusty city streets, and patches of welcome shade on hot days, Muscovites are longing for rain to wash away the pollen.

Political sources said the Indian government had applied pressure on the guerrillas to stop hostile acts in order to create a suitable atmosphere for a political solution.

"I had been urging the government of India that they should not permit terrorists operating in Sri Lanka to find a haven on Indian soil," Mr. Jayewardene said.

The ceasefire followed talks between Mr. Jayewardene and Mr. Gandhi in the Indian capital earlier this month at which the two leaders agreed violence must end to create a proper atmosphere for a political solution.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ73 ♠95 ♠A4 ♠AKQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — You have considerably more than you have shown so far. Slam is a distinct possibility if partner has a heart control, and even a grand slam may be in the offing. For the moment, though, you can do no more than show your key card in partner's suit. Cue bid three diamonds.
- Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A96 ♠5 ♠KQ876 ♠J1052
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — The companion hand to the one above. Partner is probing for the right contract by showing the diamond ace, and there is no reason why you should do anything other than cue-bid to return. Three spades is the only action we accept.
- Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ75 ♠AKJ ♠KQ ♠QJ8
What is your opening bid?
A. — You have a balanced hand of 22 points, which is the textbook opening of two no trump. The fact that you have a five-card major suit is no reason to eschew the most descriptive bid available.
- Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ54 ♠A36 ♠762 ♠62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — Obviously you are in the slam zone, but how are you supposed to tell partner about both the quality of your spade suit and your fine trump support? The solution is to delay raising hearts for the moment. Rebid three spades then bid five hearts at your next turn. Partner should get the message that you are making a slam try in hearts with no control in either minor suit.
- Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠762 ♠KJ3 ♠10762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — Despite the fact your support for diamonds is much better than for hearts, you must return partner to his first suit because it is as long, or longer, than his second suit. But three hearts is not enough. You have an absolute maximum no trump that is made even better by the fit in partner's second suit. Jump to four hearts.
- Q.6 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠54 ♠752 ♠J10754 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble Pass 1 ♠
2 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — Partner's action is primarily for penalties. However great your respect for partner's judgment might be, there are still limits to what you should have to pass. To expect partner to produce at least six tricks on defense is a bit too much. For safety reasons, we would pull to two diamonds.